

Baghdad rounds up westerners to bring pressure on governments as UN discusses worldwide sanctions

Stranded air passengers taken to Iraq

By ANDREW MCEWEN IN LONDON AND JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI

THE Gulf emergency worsened last night as British, American and German airline passengers who had been stranded in Kuwait were moved to Baghdad, raising fears that they could become hostages.

The move came a few hours before United Nations Security Council began discussing a ban on virtually all trade with Iraq and occupied Kuwait. The timing suggested that Iraq was using the passengers to put pressure on the governments to drop the ban.

As the tension grew, the US State Department said that Iraqi forces seemed to be building up close to the border with Saudi Arabia. Iraqi claims to have begun a withdrawal were dismissed by Washington, London and other governments. Saudi troops began moving up to the border, apparently as an invasion precaution.

Washington intensified its diplomatic efforts to persuade Saudi Arabia and Turkey, whose pipelines carry nearly all of Iraq's oil exports, to co-operate in the event of a naval blockade. James Baker, the US Secretary of State, is to visit Turkey and Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, is in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq reduced deliveries of oil through its 800-mile twin pipeline to Turkey, closing one line altogether. The atmosphere of crisis was reflected in Iraq by huge preparations for a possible air

attack. Whole districts of the capital took part in the air raid drills. President Saddam Hussein has warned Iraq's 17 million people to be on the alert for possible American or Israeli attacks.

The US State Department said 28 Americans were among the foreigners sent to Baghdad. It appears, however, that other foreigners who were

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not on the same plane as the Britons, Americans and Germans were also sent to the Iraqi capital, suggesting that far more people could be at risk, possibly including residents. Britain has 3,000 people in Kuwait and 2,000 in Iraq.

The Spanish foreign ministry said a Spanish businessman was missing from his hotel after being taken away by Iraqi troops on Sunday with eleven American citizens, four French people, three Britons and two Italians.

The moves came after warnings by the puppet administration in Kuwait that governments that imposed sanctions "should not expect us to act honourably".

Iraqi ambassadors in London and other capitals followed that with a warning yesterday that "sanctions will in the long run be damaging to the very countries imposing them".

A special convened meeting of the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace approved two orders in council freezing the assets of Iraq and Kuwait held in Hongkong and five Caribbean territories.

A further hint of Iraq's apparent intentions was that it continued to hold 34 British non-commissioned officers who had been moved to Baghdad on Sunday. They remained under guard at an hotel and Iraq seemed to be ignoring British diplomatic efforts to free them.

The Foreign Office said that they were in temporary custody and were well treated. One officer, an oil worker, had been moved to the same hotel but was not under guard.

The Foreign Office summoned Mr al-Salhi and there was what sources called "very

blunt speaking". It did not, however, amount to a diplomatic protest. Roger Tomkys, deputy under-secretary, told Mr al-Salhi that the statement by the puppet government could be interpreted as a threat to use the foreigners as hostages. He asked for assurances about their safety, but the ambassador only took note and did not reply.

Whitehall sources said it was thought that those rounded up were the 366 passengers from a British Airways aircraft that had stopped at Kuwait on its way from India to Britain when Iraqi forces invaded last Thursday.

The sources confirmed reports that people had been taken from the Airport Hotel and the Scandinavian Airlines Hotel, but their number and nationalities were not known.

The government was handicapped by incomplete information. Diplomats in Kuwait have been unable to check whether British residents are safe at their homes because internal telephones have been out of action for most of the time.

There were unconfirmed reports that Iraq had sent a diplomatic note to Bahrain asking it to seek the withdrawal of all American forces by Thursday.

Paris diverted a frigate from the Mediterranean, ordering her to sail for the Gulf to join two others already there. Britain has HMS York standing off the United Arab Emirates and two other vessels on the way.

● Economic pressure on Iraq was tightened further last night when its assets in Hongkong and the Caribbean were frozen (Philip Webster writes).

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Downward spiral: anxious faces on the floor of the London stock exchange yesterday as the index plunged in reaction to developments in the Gulf

World's shares plunge

By GEORGE SIVELL

WORLD stock markets fell yesterday in response to soaring oil prices. In London the main FT-SE 100 index ended the day 64.4 points down at 2220.2 after an overnight fall of 916.23 to 28599.53 on Japan's Nikkei index.

Wall Street continued the trend, falling by 100 points in early dealing and recovering to a fall of 91.33 at 2,718.32 by lunchtime in New York.

The dollar, which investors initially saw as a safe haven when Iraq invaded Kuwait, fell yesterday because of concern that the US could be heading for recession.

Sterling benefited, because of the present high interest rates paid to foreign investors, and closed up 2.35 cents at \$1.8795 in London, taking the pound's trade weighted index up 0.2 to 94.4. The dollar closed at an all-time low against the German mark.

North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude oil, added 3.50 dollars to \$26.45.

Markets plunge, page 21
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State of emergency as Bhutto is dismissed

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

A STATE of emergency was declared in Pakistan late last night after Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, and her government were dismissed. Miss Bhutto accused President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of carrying out a "constitutional coup d'état" by sacking her and ordering elections on October 24.

Heavily armed troops have been deployed in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi and they are guarding the television station and other important installations. Almost all of Miss Bhutto's opponents have supported the president's action. In Karachi the activists of Mohajir Qumi Movement came out on the streets and celebrated by firing automatic guns.

President Ishaq Khan dis-

solved the National Assembly and accused the administration of corruption, nepotism and political ineptitude. "The government willfully undermined and impaired the work of the constitution," he said. He appointed Mustafa Jatoi, the opposition leader, as caretaker prime minister. The government was dismissed as political opponents were preparing to launch a no-confidence motion against Miss Bhutto, the second in nine months. She narrowly survived the last one but in recent days frantic political horse-trading had got under way as the government sensed that this time it could lose.

President Ishaq Khan decided to pre-empt the confidence vote, believing that the government was so weak-

ened and beset with troubles that he was justified in sacking Miss Bhutto, as he has long wanted to do. The only surprise, perhaps, is that he waited so long. Miss Bhutto said the move was illegal and unconstitutional, and might be challenged in court. The 237-member National Assembly was to have been convened tomorrow.

The president has also charged Miss Bhutto with failing to safeguard the life and property of people in Sind province, which is in the grips of serious ethnic conflict. The president spoke of misuse of banks and financial institutions for political patronage by

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Foreigners are seized in Liberia

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A REBEL leader in Liberia seized about 14 foreigners as hostages yesterday while American marines were evacuating others. The State Department said the foreigners, including one American, were taken from the African Hotel in Monrovia. The Foreign Office said seven Britons were also missing.

Prince Johnson, one of two rebel leaders in Liberia, had threatened to arrest all foreigners. This forced an American evacuation of 72 people yesterday, after 59 on Sunday.

The Foreign Office confirmed that the British ambassador and three colleagues would be flown out within 48 hours.

Envoy to leave, page 9

INSIDE

Rushdie edict set to one side

Britain and Iran have agreed to put on one side the late Ayatollah Khomeini's *fatwa*, or edict, ordering Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie because of his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Although Britain still wants the *fatwa* dropped, it will now concentrate on two other obstacles to normal relations: the imprisonment of Roger Cooper, the British businessman held in Tehran, and the British hostages in Beirut. Page 20

Willis warning

Union leaders will be warned today by Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, that they will be playing into Conservative hands if they reject a general council statement on employment law. Page 8

Fast unification

In an attempt to steal the political initiative from Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, pressure is growing for early German unification, possibly this week and not tied to an election. The professed reason is to counter the deteriorating economic situation. Page 9

Big Bang

A £173 million grant by the American government has brought a superconducting super collider, which could reproduce the conditions at the start of the universe, one step nearer. Page 15

Degree results

Degree results from East Anglia and Aston University are published today. Page 24

Scrum in the bar

Ninety Rugby League matches a season will be beamed to pubs and clubs by British Aerospace in a £1.5 million deal announced yesterday. Page 36

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Petrol up to record £2.14

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE price of a gallon of four-star petrol rose to a record £2.14 last night as oil companies reacted swiftly to rapidly increasing costs in volatile world oil markets. The companies have not ruled out that further increases may be necessary.

Esso, the market leader which has 2,500 filling stations in Britain, increased its petrol prices by 10.5p a gallon (2.3p a litre) to £2.14 a gallon (47.2p a litre) from midnight and added 13.6p a gallon (3p a litre) to the cost of diesel.

The cost of a gallon of Esso

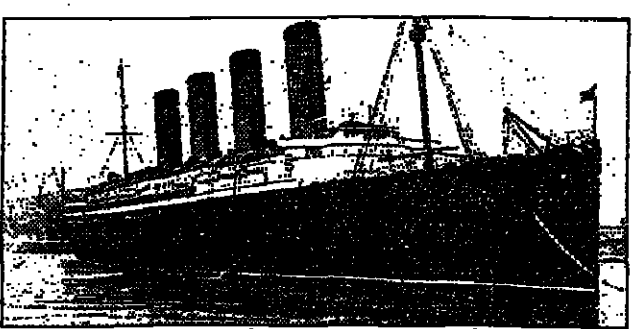
unleaded fuel also broke the £2 barrier at £2.01 (44.2p a litre), while super unleaded prices rose to £2.11 (46.6p a litre) and diesel reached £1.85 a gallon (40.9p a litre).

Shell, which also has 2,500 forecourts, put up its prices by an average 5.5p per gallon (1.2p a litre), taking the company's four-star price up to £2.10 (46.2p a litre). The cost of Texaco fuel went up by an average 9.5p a gallon (2.1p a litre) at its 1,400 filling stations, taking the cost of a gallon of four-star to about £2.13 (46.9p a litre). However,

the company has not yet made a decision on diesel prices.

The previous highest price for petrol was 204.6p, set in June, 1985. The Automobile Association warned that the increases would put at least £30 on the average annual cost of motoring although industry faced huge bills for increased diesel charges.

Other oil majors, including British Petroleum, are expected to announce similar price rises tomorrow heralding the start of a series of big increases on Britain's forecourts.



The Lusitania: carrying large quantities of explosives

claimed that the ship was carrying only small-arms ammunition. Terrence Robson, an historian who has investigated the sinking for 22 years, believes the Queen has the option to restore posthumously the garter to the

Kaiser, his son and the German and Austrian princes. He says he has evidence indicating that the government knew the liner was carrying a large amount of war material and was aware that the Germans were certain to attack. The

submarine, the U20, had sunk two vessels off the Irish coast days before the Lusitania. The government, he claims, was prepared to see it sunk in order to blacken the German character and, ultimately, encourage America to side with Britain. Of the 1,201 lives lost, 189 were Americans.

In his diary, the King described the loss as a "most dastardly crime", unaware, Mr Robson says, that the Lusitania was effectively set up as propaganda.

A message from an American armament manufacturer to its London agents, stated that the liner was carrying 3,240 gun fuses and 1,250 cases of shrapnel shells.

Mr Robson is to publish his findings which, he says, show that George V was misled. He says it is inconceivable that such quantities of explosives would be transported on the liner without the government's knowledge.

"If the government was to come clean and admit its involvement and responsibility, then the Queen could have the clear option to do something about reinstating the garters," Mr Robson said.

"More important, perhaps, it would give the present generation, and those who still remember the disaster or had relatives on board, a new view of the German people of different generations."

IRA bomb attack fails in London

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN IRA bomb designed to kill Lord Armstrong of Iliminster, the former cabinet secretary, was defused yesterday after the bombers selected the wrong target. The explosive was put under the car of an American businessman but fell off as she manoeuvred her vehicle.

The woman backed over the bomb, which would have been primed by a timing device, but dismissed the package as part of a child's toy and drove off. Last night, as Cherry Freeman, aged 48, a computer expert, counted her good fortune, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist branch, said the bomb showed reckless and total disregard for human life.

Lord Armstrong moved from the address in Woronzow Road, St John's Wood,

north London, six years ago. The attempt on his life comes one week after Ian Gow, the Conservative MP for Eastbourne, was killed by a car bomb outside his home in Sussex. Both men were on a list of possible targets found in an IRA bomb factory in south London in 1988. The bomb in Woronzow Road did not explode probably because a timing device was not allowed to run its course.

The road, part of an expensive residential area above Regent's Park, includes terraced houses, flats and homes for old people. An explosion there could have caused substantial loss of life at the height of the rush hour. The bomb was placed under the

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Man in the news, page 6

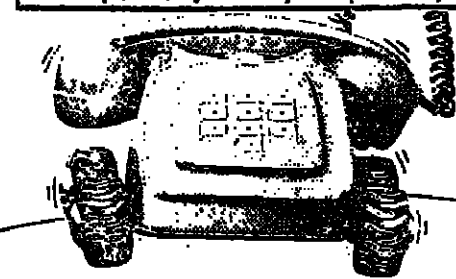
Direct Line has now launched a muscular challenge against the building society dominance of the property insurance market. Aggressively, it is guaranteeing to shave 20 per cent off the costs of the insurance of those who have bought their property in the last five years and have insured it through one of 17 of the top 20 building societies.

The Observer 24th June 1990

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: SANCTIONS

Security Council poised to impose total ban on trade

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council was expected yesterday to impose a total trade embargo on Iraq and the Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

The comprehensive package of sanctions would include a ban on buying Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil, selling weapons to the two countries or providing new investment. The proposal would also require Saudi Arabia and Turkey to shut the Iraqi oil pipelines that cross their territories.

But the draft resolution stopped short of ordering

other nations to break diplomatic relations with Iraq. Western diplomats emerging from a private meeting of the Security Council on Sunday evening said that they expected the council's 15 members to approve the sanctions resolution by an overwhelming majority.

Sir Crispin Tickell, the British representative, said there was strong support, with the exception of one member.

Mr Thomas Pickering, the American representative who has been leading the dip-

lomatic push to have sanctions imposed, said he expected the voting to mirror that last Thursday when the council voted by 14-0 to condemn the Iraqi invasion.

Only Yemen, the sole Arab member of the council, abstained from that vote, saying that it had not received instructions from its capital. Diplomats expected Yemen to abstain again yesterday.

If passed, the sanctions resolution would mark only the third time that the Security Council has imposed enforcement measures under chapter seven of the UN Charter, and only the second time it has decreed comprehensive sanctions. The council approved an arms embargo on South Africa, and a full trade ban on Rhodesia.

On two other occasions, the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and the Gulf war in 1987, the council has threatened to take enforcement action to achieve a ceasefire. In neither case was it necessary to adopt a follow-up resolution imposing the threatened sanctions.

The military action taken under the UN flag in the Korean war, passed when the Soviet Union was boycotting the Security Council, did not fall explicitly under the chapter seven provisions.

Article 41 of the UN Charter says: "The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the members of the United Nations to apply such measures."

"These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communications, and the severance of diplomatic relations."

If such measures prove inadequate, the Security Council has authority under Article 42 to "take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include blockade, demonstrations and other operations by air, sea or land forces of members of the United Nations."

Security Council resolutions under chapter seven have the force of international law, but the council has no means of enforcing them.

The resolution would ask the secretary-general to report regularly on compliance, and establish a special committee to monitor implementation.

The United Nations' experience with comprehensive sanctions in Rhodesia was not an entirely happy one. Diplomats are confident that Iraq is an easier target.

"Sanctions did eventually work against Rhodesia, but it was a rather long process," one Western diplomat said. "In the case of Iraq you have an economy that is dependent on one major export, oil, and exports via a very limited number of export routes. The task of imposing sanctions should be relatively simple provided all the major countries agree to comply."

● Countries that have announced sanctions:

Arms sales suspended: Poland, Czechoslovakia, China, Italy, Soviet Union, Australia (France had already suspended because of unpaid debts).

Kuwaiti and/or Iraqi assets frozen: Norway, US, Britain, Denmark, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, West Germany, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Canada, Japan, Australia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland* (* recommended).

Oil imports banned: Japan, US, Belgium, Denmark, Britain, France, Italy, West Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Canada, Australia. (AP)



A Kuwaiti boy in military uniform shouting his defiance of Saddam Hussein during a protest march which started at the Kuwaiti embassy in London yesterday

French fears underlined by envoy's warning

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AN EXPLICIT warning by the Iraqi ambassador in Paris about the economic consequences of the French decision to back UN sanctions against the Saddam regime has underlined fears here that France could be the main loser in any extended confrontation. In a statement to journalists yesterday Abdel Razzak al-Hashimi said that the French government's position had obvious implications for its country's "extremely large" interests in Iraq.

Mr al-Hashimi spoke of Baghdad's "astonishment and regret" at the position taken by France. This might have serious repercussions, he said, "not simply at the present

moment but over the long-term as well." Such tough talk in public will only exacerbate growing concern here about the status of the massive debts Iraq has incurred in France since the earliest phase of the Gulf war. By some estimates, these could now total as much as 40 billion francs (about \$4 billion), a figure reflecting the central role France had eagerly assumed as one of Baghdad's major partners, before, during and after that conflict.

The present crisis has already derailed urgent attempts by the French government to recoup the estimated 20 billion francs Iraq owes for arms purchases during the fighting. An agreement to reschedule

those debts was due to be signed on the very day that President Saddam Hussein's tanks rolled into Kuwait, while the French companies that won important contracts earlier this year will now be looking nervously at these commitments.

The uncoordinated enthusiasm with which the French government and private industry embraced the Saddam regime was sharply criticised yesterday by the former head of the country's external intelligence service, the DGSE, Pierre Marion. He said the failure to accept during the Gulf war that Baghdad was bent on "expansion and hegemony" had been compounded by subsequent efforts to make Iraq the pivot of French commercial policy in the Middle East.

"When I was in charge, we believed that Iraq was in the process of becoming an important and dangerous military power," M Marion told *Le Figaro*. "The material we were supplying for him to pursue the war with Iran was destined to reinforce the menacing posture he would subsequently adopt..."

The Iraqi ambassador was anxious to ensure France had received his uncompromising message loud and clear. "If certain governments continue to believe that the old regime in Kuwait can be brought back into power... they should abandon any such illusions because the old regime of the al-Sabah family is finished and Kuwait now has a new government."

Envoy claims invaders face strong resistance

BY MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

GHAZI al-Rayes, the Kuwaiti ambassador to London, put a bold front on his country's plight yesterday, welcoming international moves to impose economic sanctions on Iraq and saying Kuwaitis were mounting "strong resistance" to the Iraqi invaders.

He dismissed the Iraqi-installed government in Kuwait as puppets and said the suggestion that the ousted al-Sabah family were finished as Kuwait's rulers was ridiculous. They would get back.

Speaking at a press conference at the Kuwaiti embassy, in Queensgate,

Kensington, only a few yards from the Iraqi embassy, Mr al-Rayes predicted that economic sanctions would be effective but would not, in themselves, be enough to resolve the situation. Kuwait would welcome all help the United States and other governments could offer.

He claimed that the Iraqi forces did not control all of Kuwait, but declined to say precisely what they did not control. He agreed that military action against the Iraqis might result in many deaths but said the people were ready to make such sacrifices.

Baghdad cuts off oil pipeline into Turkey

FROM AMELIA FRENCH IN ISTANBUL

IRAQ shut off the smaller of two pipelines that transport crude oil into Turkey at 6pm local time yesterday. The second pipeline was reduced to 70 per cent capacity and the flow is expected to be further reduced within the next two days.

Okday Vural, general manager of Botas, the state-run company that transports the oil from Iraq to Turkey, said he had not been informed how long the reduction would last or the reason for it, although he said it was probably because of difficulties Iraq will face in selling its oil because of the international embargo.

The pipeline carries 1.6 million barrels a day, about half of Iraq's oil exports, to the Mediterranean Turkish coast.

Mr Vural said the reduction of the oil flow from Iraq would probably halve the revenue Turkey receives from transporting the crude oil. The decision to cut the supply came as Turkey was facing increased pressure from the United States to shut off the pipeline. James Baker, the United States secretary of state, is to make an emergency visit to Turkey tomorrow, apparently as a result of an Iraqi official's announcement on Sunday that he had persuaded Turkey's President Ozal to remain neutral in the Iraqi conflict.

President Bush was in regular telephone contact with Mr Ozal over the weekend to persuade Ankara to join the West in its sweeping economic and military sanctions. At the same time, President Saddam Hussein issued aggressive warnings of retaliatory action if Ankara bowed to American pressure.

President Saddam's awareness of Turkey's delicate position was clearly demonstrated when he sent a message to Mr Ozal on Sunday, via his second in command, Taha Yasin Ramadan, in an attempt to muster assurances from Ankara that it would not respond to an embargo.

Turkey is also clearly anxious not to upset its allies in Nato or the European Community, which it wishes to join. Iraqi-Turkish relations have never been easy, and the difficulties have been highlighted recently by the nearly completed Ataturk on the Euphrates river. Iraq has been demanding 700 cubic metres of water a second from the river while Turkey insists it will give only 500.

But Iraq and Turkey rely heavily on each other for trade. Turkey supplied Iraq with arms during its eight-year war with Iran, and Iraq supplies Turkey with about 60 per cent of its oil.

In the past Turkey has taken care not to offend Iraq and ran into diplomatic difficulties recently when part of what was believed to be the supergun was seized in Istanbul and flown back to Britain.

Ankara is still indignant about America's recent signing of a defence co-operation agreement with Greece that Turkey considers to be directed against itself. Despite reassurances from Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, during a visit to Ankara last month, Turkish leaders remain rattled.

"We believe that it will make Greece more intransigent and negotiations and compromises more difficult," Turkish defence minister Sefa Giray told *The Times* in a recent interview.

The position of Turkey in Nato appeared to be losing significance with the London declaration stating the Soviet Union was no longer considered an enemy. American military aid to Turkey, the third-largest recipient, totals \$498 million this year but is being reduced.

But observers here consider Iraq's actions may bring home to the West the strategic importance of Turkey. As for

the European Community, its indefinite postponement last January of the decision on Ankara's application left Turkey feeling alienated.

● LONDON: Iraq exports oil to the West through two pipelines that cross neighbouring countries, and through the export terminal of Mina Bakr off the Iraqi coast (Martin Barrow writes).

The pipeline closed down yesterday by Iraq consists of twin pipes that run from Baiji, northwest of Baghdad, and wind through Turkey to the Mediterranean.

Turkey does not produce enough oil to be a significant net exporter and does not use the pipeline. The single most important export route is the Mina Bakr terminal in the Gulf, which was heavily damaged during the war with Iran but has been repaired and has been handling about three million barrels a day since the beginning of this year. The Baniyas pipeline from Iraq to the Mediterranean through Syria and Lebanon was closed in 1982 because of the civil war in Lebanon, but could be reopened at short notice.

Blockade solution proposed by Owen

BY ANDREW MC EWEEN, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Western allies have been considering whether a naval blockade of Iraq could be made to work even if Saudi Arabia and Turkey refused to co-operate.

This might seem impractical, at first sight, because nearly all Iraq's oil is carried through the two countries by pipeline. About 60 per cent of production goes through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea, where it is loaded into tankers. A further 1.5 million barrels a day is pumped to the Turkish port of Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean, passing through an 800-mile pipeline.

Both countries have strong reasons to refuse a Western request to close the pipelines. Saudi Arabia because it could precipitate an invasion; Turkey because its trade with Iraq is a mainstay of its economy. Iraq also exports small amounts by sea and road, but pipelines hold the key to any successful blockade. There would little the West could do about a Turkish refusal. The key question, therefore, is whether a diplomatic way could be found of overcoming a refusal by Saudi Arabia to co-operate.

David Owen, former leader of the Social Democratic Party, has proposed a solution to this problem based on his experience as minister of state and later foreign secretary from 1976 to 1979, when Britain tried to enforce economic sanctions against the white minority government of Rhodesia.

Dr Owen, MP for Plymouth, argued that it would be unreasonable, and also unnecessary, to ask Saudi Arabia to close the pipeline, because that could be seen by Baghdad as a provocation. The West could, however, achieve a blockade without closing it. It would need only to control the quantity of oil unloaded from the Red Sea terminal into tankers.

It would ensure that the oil exported did not exceed Saudi Arabia's quota under Opec agreements. Saudi Arabia would receive all the revenue from this oil. The difficulty of distinguishing between Iraqi and Saudi oil would be irrelevant. If Iraq pumped oil through its pipeline, it would not be paid for it.

The Royal Navy blockaded the port of Beira in Mozambique from 1966 to 1975 to prevent oil reaching Harare. It was partly successful, but proved fraught with difficulties. However, Dr Owen said improvements in satellite technology since then had made it much easier to keep every tanker under constant observation and to intercept any attempt to evade a blockade.

He further argued that the Iraq crisis could have a silver lining if used as an opportunity to reinforce the Soviet Union's co-operation with the West, to break the diplomatic impasse with Iran, and to give greater authority to the United Nations.

"I think it is the utmost test of international authority," he said. This man (President Saddam Hussein) has got to be defeated using the UN Charter, and I think it is possible. With some skilled diplomacy there is no reason why this (crisis) need be such an appalling reverse."

Broad economic measures sought

Text of the proposed Security Council resolution circulated by the United States

The Security Council, reaffirming its Resolution 660 (1990), deeply concerned that this resolution has not been implemented and that the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait continues with further loss of human life and material destruction, determined to bring the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq to an end and to restore the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait, noting that the legitimate Kuwait has expressed its readiness to comply with Resolution 660 (1990), mindful of its responsibilities under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, affirming the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence, in response to the armed attack by Iraq against Kuwait, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations:

1. Determines that Iraq has failed to comply with operative paragraph 2 of Resolution 660 (1990) and has usurped the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait;

2. Decides, as a consequence, to take the following measures to secure compliance of Iraq with operative paragraph 2 and to restore the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait;

3. Decides that all states shall prevent:

a. The import into their territories of all commodities and products originating in Iraq or Kuwait exported therefrom after the date of this resolution;

b. Any activities by their nationals or in their territories which would promote or are calculated to promote the export or transshipment of any commodities or products from Iraq or Kuwait; and any dealings by their nationals or their flag vessels or in their territories in any commodities or products originating in Iraq or Kuwait and exported therefrom after the date of this resolution, including in particular any transfer of funds to Iraq or Kuwait for the purpose of such activities or dealings;

c. The sale or supply by their nationals, or from their territories, or using their flag vessels, of any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment, whether or not originating in their territories, but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in special humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs, to any person or body in Iraq or Kuwait or to any person or body for the purposes of any business carried on in, or operated from Iraq or Kuwait, and any activities by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote such sale, or supply or use of such

commodities or products;

4. Decides that all states shall not make available to the government of Iraq, or to any commercial, industrial or public utility undertaking in Iraq or Kuwait, any funds or any other financial or economic resources and shall prevent their nationals and any persons within their territories or from removing from their territories or otherwise making available to that government or to any such undertaking any such funds or resources and from remitting any other funds to persons or bodies within Iraq or Kuwait, except payments exclusively for strictly medical or humanitarian purposes, and, in special humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs;

5. Calls upon all states, including non-members of the United Nations, to act strictly in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, notwithstanding any contract entered into or licence granted before the date of this resolution;

6. Decides to establish, in accordance with rule 28 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a committee of the Security Council, consisting of all the members of the council, to undertake the following tasks and to report on its work to the council with its observations and recommendations:

a. To examine the reports on the progress of the implementation of this resolution which will be submitted by the secretary-general;

b. To seek from all states further information regarding the action taken by them concerning the effective implementation of the provisions laid down in this resolution;

7. Calls upon all states to co-operate fully with the committee in the fulfilment of its task, including supplying such information as may be sought by the committee in pursuance of this resolution;

8. Requests the secretary-general to provide all necessary assistance to the committee and to make the necessary arrangements in the secretariat for the purpose;

9. Decides that notwithstanding paragraphs 4 to 8, nothing in this resolution shall prohibit assistance to the legitimate government of Kuwait, and calls upon all states:

a. to take appropriate measures to protect assets of the legitimate government of Kuwait and its agencies, and

b. not to recognise any regime set up by the occupying power;

10. Requests the secretary-general to report to the council on the progress of the implementation of this resolution, the first report to be submitted within 30 days;

11. Decides to keep this item on its agenda and to continue its efforts to put an early end to the invasion. (Reuter)

Nations take action against Iraq

BY REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the United Nations Security Council prepared to impose sanctions against Iraq, countries throughout the world were also taking action.

Australia imposed a range of economic sanctions against Iraq, covering an embargo on oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait, and barring the sale of engine components to the Iraqi air force.

Australia would ensure Kuwait assets in Australia would be available only to the "legitimate" government of Kuwait, a government spokesman said.

"The Iraqi invasion was a gross and indefensible violation of the United Nations charter and posed a most serious threat to the stability of the Middle East," said Michael Duffy, the attorney-

general and acting foreign minister, announcing the sanctions.

The government of The Netherlands will impose an embargo on oil shipments from Iraq and Kuwait and freeze all assets of both countries in the country in line with a European Community resolution.

"We are going along with the EC decision. There are still some practical measures to be taken, but the ministry of finance is taking those measures today," Robert van Lanschot, the foreign ministry spokesman, said.

Hong Kong "would most probably follow the United Kingdom's lead in freezing Kuwaiti assets," a government spokesman said.

The British colony, which

prides itself on its laissez-faire approach to business, has never frozen assets belonging to a foreign power before and has no laws to govern such a move, the spokesman said in a statement.

Switzerland is considering the unprecedented step of joining international economic sanctions against Iraq. "We are still analysing the situation, but our options are still open."

"It is possible that sanctions could be imposed," an unidentified spokesman said. Switzerland is not even a member of the United Nations.

But the spokesman said that should it join the sanctions it would be the first time in modern history that the country had used economic pres-

sure to underline its foreign policy. Colonel Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, conferred with King Hussein of Jordan about developments in the Gulf.

But the report by the official Libyan news agency Jana did not say what the two leaders said in their telephone conversation nor when it took place.

Oil firms in Norway, which are closing many of their North Sea platforms for routine summer maintenance work, said they were unable to raise output to make up for the shortfall in oil caused by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

"We have no possibilities at such short notice to increase production," Arild Steinc, a spokesman for Norway's government oil firm, said.



A trader at London's International Petroleum Exchange showing signs of stress as the invasion of Kuwait drove world oil prices up yesterday by about \$3 a barrel. Buyers scrambled for supplies cut by embargoes, amid

prospects of a tighter blockade and fears about a wider conflict. (Reuter)

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: IRAQ ENCIRCLED

Bush orders CIA to plot the downfall of Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush has ordered American intelligence agencies to devise plans to destabilise and ultimately topple President Saddam Hussein of Iraq using both overt and covert means, according to reports here yesterday.

He issued the order after being told in briefings by William Webster, the CIA director, that President Saddam posed a threat to vital US interests that extended well beyond the immediate Kuwait crisis, *The Washington Post* said.

The CIA's evaluation is that, backed by Kuwait's oil reserves and determined to make his country an Arab superpower, the ruthless Iraqi leader would become a powerful and destabilising force within Opec, driving up oil prices, precipitating recession in the United States and worsening its already serious fiscal problems.

Mr Bush, himself a former CIA director, is said to have ruled out assassinating President Saddam, but to have asked for the broadest set of options for getting rid of a man who could threaten his very presidency. Those op-

tions would include undermining the Iraqi economy in every way possible, fomenting discontent within the Iraqi armed forces, and supporting internal and external resistance to President Saddam. The CIA refused to comment yesterday.

The presidential order comes as the administration, the Pentagon and the CIA engage in a welter of mutual recrimination over one of the biggest intelligence failures in years. The Iraqi invasion last Wednesday night caught the administration so off-guard that the American ambassador to Baghdad had left for London on holiday. Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, was at home, having taken a rare evening off, and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, was preparing to fly to Aspen, Colorado, with Mr Bush. The row in the United States has been matched by similar criticism in London after the British ambassador to Baghdad, Mr Harold Walker, went on holiday shortly before the invasion.

Pentagon officials have anonymously told American journalists that the CIA intelligence was woefully inadequate. The CIA mounted an unusual public defence of its performance, insisting it provided policy-makers with "very useful and timely information" and implying that administration officials misinterpreted its reports and failed to act on them.

The truth appears to lie somewhere in between. According to State Department officials, the CIA accurately reported the build-up of forces on the Kuwaiti border in the days before the invasion, but at first took the view that President Saddam was sabre-rattling before an Opec meeting where he wanted oil production cut to force up prices.

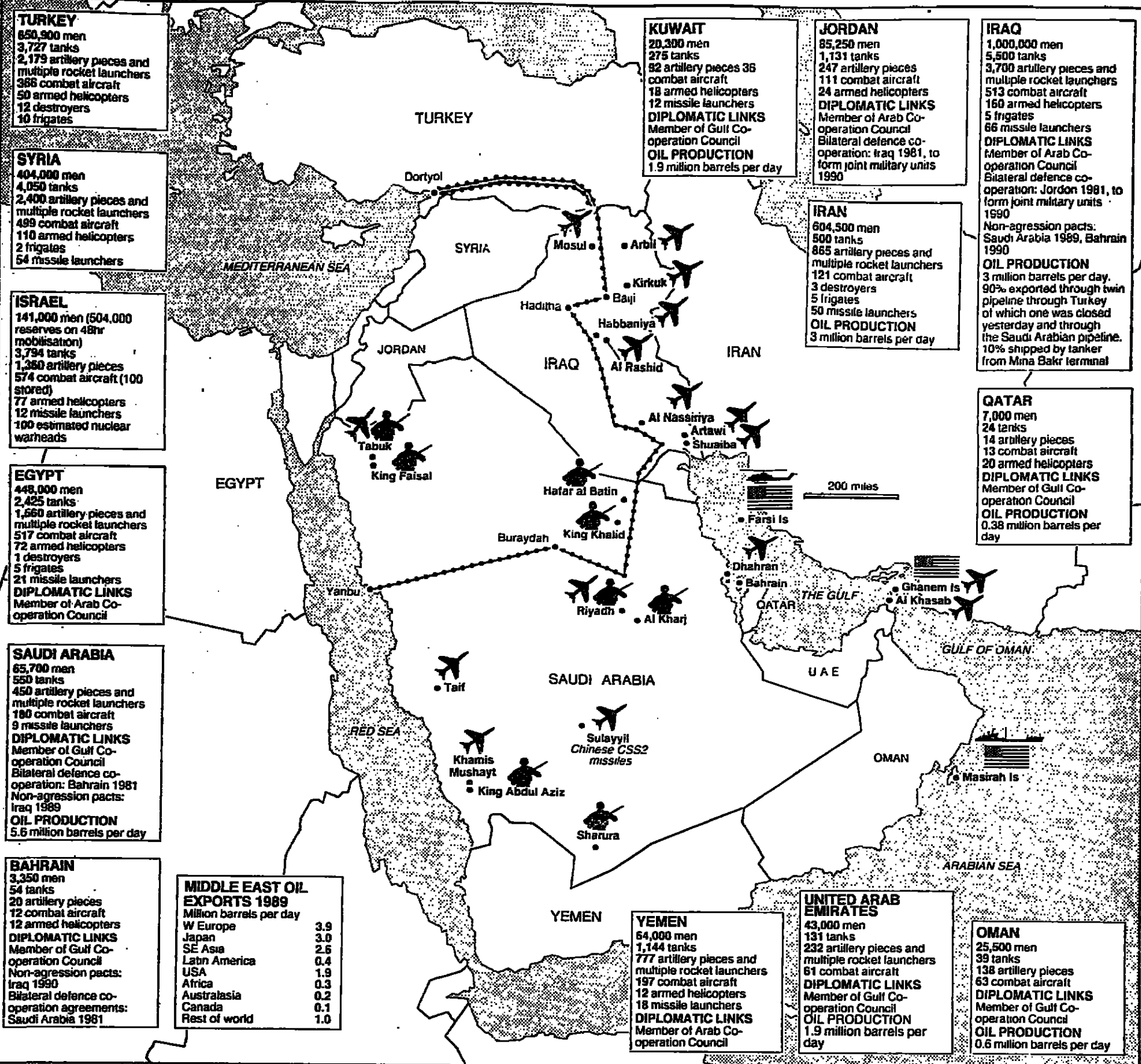
By the weekend, according to administration officials, the CIA was giving warning of a possible Iraqi attack if the oil demands were not met, but apparently suggested the attacks might be directed against specific oilfields or contested islands rather than the entire country.

"I think the intelligence community believed it likely the Iraqis would advance to the oilfields and seize some territories that were previously disputed," said Robert Torricelli, a Democratic congressman who was briefed on the day of the invasion. "It also appears to me the administration further interpreted, further reduced" the seriousness of the imminent attack.

Certainly the administration had long been guilty of wishful thinking about Iraq. Just a day before the invasion, John Kelly, the assistant secretary of state, told the House foreign affairs committee that the administration opposed congressional moves to impose sanctions on Baghdad, while the White House insisted that sanctions would damage its hopes of influencing events in Iraq.

The CIA will be more determined than ever to evade blame as the invasion came in the midst of a congressional and media debate on the funding and direction of the intelligence agencies in the wake of the Cold War's end.

Many congressmen were complaining of a series of alleged intelligence shortcomings - failure to foresee events in Eastern Europe, and gross overestimates of Soviet economic strength - and of waste and duplication among the various American intelligence agencies, and were threatening to slash the intelligence-related budget over the coming years.



Westerners held 'to deter attack on Iraq'

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI

TESTIMONIES from foreigners fleeing from Iraq-occupied Kuwait yesterday appeared to confirm that President Saddam Hussein is holding scores of Westerners hostage to deter an American attack on Baghdad.

A Swedish woman who escaped to Saudi Arabia with her husband and two children said she saw Iraqi troops at the border turning back an American and a Canadian trying to leave Kuwait on Sunday.

"I am not sure what happened to them," Helena Wiberg said in a telephone interview from her hotel in Bahrain last night. "The Iraqi soldiers at the border seemed only interested in checking the nationalities of those trying to leave Kuwait. They only looked at the cover of the passports. I do not know why they let us cross," she said.

Mrs Wiberg said she and her family reached Saudi Arabia by car after crossing the no man's land between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. "We were so relieved when we saw the Saudis," she said.

British, American and West German officials have said that nationals of their countries working in Kuwait were rounded up by Iraqi troops and driven in buses to Baghdad immediately after last week's invasion. Last night a source said that 11 Americans working at the Rumaila oil field are being held at the Rashid Hotel in Baghdad. The hotel switchboard was not answering telephone calls yesterday evening.

The Philippines embassy in Baghdad, was said to have reported to Manila that the Iraqis had captured an unspecified number of British, American, Canadian, and In-

dian nationals, in addition to Filipinos.

A diplomat in the Gulf said all foreigners seized in Kuwait were being held in different hotels in the Iraqi capital. Although there is no word on their fate, all were believed to be treated well, the source said.

The Iraqi decision to hold foreigners throughout Baghdad reflected President Saddam's growing fears of an American attack.

Meanwhile, Iraq and Saudi Arabia last night remained at sword's point with military preparations taking place on both sides of the desert border. Foreign oil industry sources and travellers spoke of armour and troop deployment by both countries while Iraq conducted evacuation drills in several cities.

Tensions in the Middle East were escalating hourly last night as at least two American aircraft carriers sailed towards the region and Washington increased pressure on Saudi Arabia to stand up to President Saddam.

New details of military preparations emerged as Richard Cheney, the American secretary of defence, arrived in Saudi Arabia for consultations with King Fahd.

Sources in the Gulf said Iraq was consolidating positions and digging in just a few miles north of the Saudi border. Oil industry sources in Saudi Arabia appear certain that the country has begun translating alarm into action.

They said the Saudis mobilised a number of infantry units from the port of Dhahran towards the Khafji region. This followed reports of an Iraqi advance on the only border crossing early yesterday. Diplomats in the

Gulf said the Americans are trying to convince King Fahd that now is the best time to take action against President Saddam. Mr Cheney is said to have told the kingdom not to feel defenceless or intimidated by Iraqi threats.

Reports from Iraq said that Baghdad had made the symbolic gesture of pulling out a token force of the invading army from Kuwait. Baghdad-based journalists were taken to Safwan in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border to watch tanks, rocket launchers and armoured personnel carriers returning to Iraq. If the exercise was intended to give credibility to President Saddam's promises, it evidently failed to convince Western governments or even Iraq's closest neighbours.

Kuwait city was reported quiet yesterday, an indication that the 130,000-strong invading force has crushed the scattered pockets of Kuwaiti resistance.

The last clash was reported by a correspondent of the New China News Agency in Kuwait city, who said that he had not heard gunfire since Sunday.

● **Manager trapped:** Eddie Firmani, the former manager of Charlton Athletic and Italian international forward, is among the Westerners trapped in Kuwait (Dennis Signy writes).

Firmani, aged 37 today, flew to Kuwait last week to take up a new appointment as coach to the Kuwait club. He arrived five hours before the airport invasion and his wife Shirley, who teaches in Kuwait and was due to follow him, has not heard from him since. Their flat is 100 yards from the beach where the Iraqi tanks are parked.

Saudi forces moved to Kuwait border

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SAUDI Arabia yesterday continued to prepare itself for a possible Iraqi assault across its borders, following signs of an increasing build-up of troops and tanks not far from the frontier. There were reports that all the main bases were on a heightened state of alert.

Saudi troops packed into personnel carriers were reported to be moving to the Ras Khafji region, near the Kuwaiti border, from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia's main oil port. Iraqi troops and tanks were also heading for the Ras Khafji area.

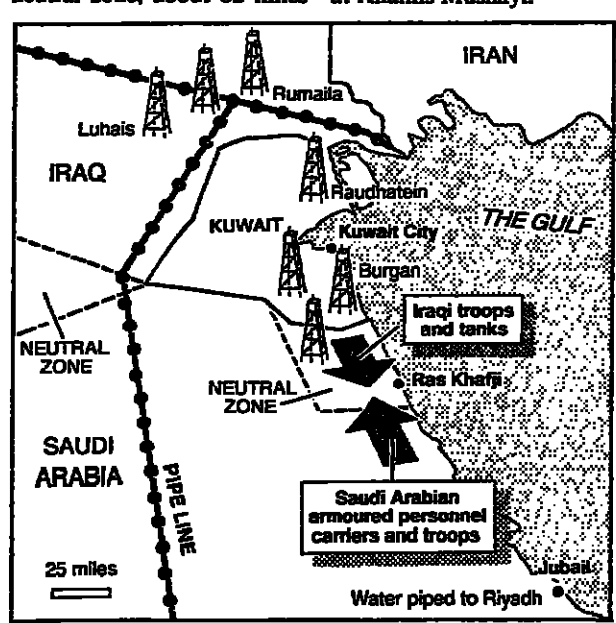
Saudi Arabia's border with Kuwait runs through the so-called neutral zone. Under a 1988 agreement, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait divided the area, drawing their border through it, and agreed to share the revenues from an oil field in the zone. Ras Khafji is in the neutral zone, about 82 miles

south of Kuwait city and 188 miles north of the Saudi port of Ad Dammam.

In the no man's land stretching several hundred yards between two checkpoints at the only crossing point on the Kuwaiti-Saudi frontier, three Iraqi tanks took up positions, their guns pointing towards the kingdom, according to reports.

Up to Saudi 300 tanks had earlier moved out of King Khalid military city, one of three such complexes, built by the government to provide facilities for troops in desert areas. King Khalid, in the northeast, is about 80 miles from where the Saudi, Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders meet.

The other two military cities are King Faisal, near Tabuk, in the northwest, and King Abdul Aziz, in the southwest, near a fighter base at Khamis Mushayt.



The King Khalid complex lies off a main north-south road. It is about 35 miles in circumference and has a population of several thousand people, mostly Saudi military. About 80 American civilian technicians are normally based there, as well as 30 to 40 US military personnel training Saudi pilots to fly Blackhawk helicopters. There is also a contingent of French missile technicians.

Saudi Arabia also has a new military complex at Hafar al Batin, about 40 miles from the Iraqi border and 50 miles from the Kuwaiti border. There is an airbase, but it is dominated by the army, although there is not sufficient motorized armour units to hold back Iraqi divisions.

Two other military complexes are the garrison at Riyadh, where the Royal Guard regiment is based, and a small desert garrison at Sharura in the south. The main air bases are at Tabuk, Riyadh, Dhahran and Khamis Mushayt, with a transport base at Taif.

A former US commander in the Gulf said the deployed Saudi tanks were probably drawn from a rapid deployment force maintained at the King Khalid complex by the six member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

George Crist, a retired Marine Corps general who formerly headed US Central Command, the overall headquarters for American forces in the region, said he believed the Gulf Co-operation Council force would have been ordered into the field. The unit includes two brigades, each with about 5,000 men and 100 or more US-built M1 and M48 tanks.

Dreams of empires past led a pressured Saddam to act

FROM AMATZIA BARAM IN HAIFA

WHEN President Saddam Hussein ordered his armoured columns to cross into Kuwait, he fulfilled a long-held ambition among Iraqi nationalists who have coveted their tiny neighbour ever since the days of the Ottoman empire.

Even in the 1930s, King Ghazi of Iraq, would make nightly radio broadcasts on his private station calling on Kuwaitis to join the "Iraqi family".

At that time the monarchy was in no position to challenge Britain's military dominance in the Gulf. This time, however, a combination of domestic, regional and international changes combined to provide President Saddam with his opportunity to strike.

One obvious change is the disappearance of Iran as a local superpower. Iraq was eager to present the region with the *fait accompli* of a new strategic acquisition before Iran rebuilds its armed forces and before it repairs its fences with

the Gulf Arabs. Another change is the metamorphosis of East-West relations: President Saddam correctly assessed that the two superpowers no longer regard every regional conflict as an aggressive move on the part of the opposite side, and thus that the danger of such a conflict, becoming an East-West flashpoint has greatly diminished. At the same time, however, it appears that he underestimated the new potential for American-Soviet co-operation against aggression by local powers.

But there were other developments of no less significance and more immediate inside Iraq which may explain the Iraqi invasion. At the end of the Gulf war the Iraqi public was encouraged by the Baath regime itself to expect an early and meaningful improvement in their standard of living; an early return of prisoners of war and a peace agreement with Iran that would be dictated from a position of strength and enable Iraq to release much of its 1.25 million-strong army. None of these happened.

Most importantly, the economic situation even deteriorated. Iraq owes non-Arab countries and banks some \$40 billion (£25 billion). Unable to repay, Iraq has continuously worked to reschedule its debts with the result that most banks have been reluctant to agree to new loans. In 1990 Iraq expected to receive between \$18-22 billion in oil revenues, after it received only about \$14 billion in 1989. These expectations were shattered when oil prices fell in the spring of 1990. Under the new circumstances Iraq could not hope for higher revenues in 1990 than it had received in the previous year. Bearing in mind that their debt service amounts to \$3.5 billion a year and that military imports amount to at least \$3.5 billion annually, by late June of this year it became clear that for all civilian imports Iraq could expect to earn no more than \$7 billion.

Indeed, the economic strife in Iraq reached such proportions that it let some steam off the president allowed the press to publish the public's complaints.

These, muffled as they naturally are under such a regime, reflect deep frustration. There is chronic shortage of basic foodstuffs, but a thriving black market; inflation of at least 25 per cent; a crumbling infrastructure; and widespread corruption.

One of the ways with which the regime has treated complaints regarding economic hardships throughout the war and following the ceasefire has been to blame it on the rich Gulf Arab states. Iraq, the regime's media has been arguing, in its capacity as "the guardian of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland", was fighting the Iranians in defence not only of itself but also of the whole Arab nation. Consequently, all the Arabs should support Iraq in its battle against the "foreign enemy" - if not with troops, then at least with generous economic aid. The Gulf Arabs, the Iraqi media charged, have shown gross ingratitude by giving Iraq only meagre support.

When it became clear that the oil overproduction of Kuwait and the

United Arab Emirates substantially reduced Iraq's oil revenues this resentment against the Gulf Arabs, fanned by the regime, created in turn great domestic pressure to punish the ungrateful "offenders" and particularly the Kuwaiti ruling family, whom some Iraqis still see as usurpers.

President Saddam felt under pressure from another quarter. His relations with his army officers have always been problematic (although a field marshal he has never served in the army and his main powerbase is civilian internal security organisations). Had he been able at the end of the war to translate Iraq's tremendous military might into strategic assets his prestige with the army would have been secured. Indeed this is precisely where the Iraqi president's main weakness lies. He announced victory over Iran, he declared that his chemical warheads won him strategic parity with Israel, and his media portrayed him as the unchallenged leader of the Arab world, a befitting heir

to Nasser. Yet he was unable to translate all this into tangible political, strategic and economic assets.

This dissonance between self image or projected image, and real political clout was agonising and humiliating enough to Baathist Iraq in general and President Saddam in particular when Iraq realised that it was unable to impose peace on Iran, or to dislodge powerful Syria from Lebanon. It was unacceptable when it came to a tiny neighbour rejecting almost all Iraq's demands.

Through the invasion of tiny Kuwait President Saddam not only occupied a valuable asset but also demonstrated to all his weaker neighbours his might and his resolve to turn Iraq at least into the hegemonic power in his own part of the Arab world, that is in the Gulf. This, at what he believed to be an acceptable Arab and international cost.

Dr Amatzia Baram is a lecturer in Middle East history at the University of Haifa.



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Council faces Patten clash after defying tax target

By PETER DAVENPORT

DONCASTER council, one of the local authorities to lose a legal battle with the environment secretary over poll tax capping, faces another confrontation with the government after setting a revised charge yesterday.

The Labour-controlled council voted to set a new figure of £298.85, almost £36 lower than its previous level but still £17 above the target set by Chris Patten, the environment secretary. Officials said that the figure was necessary to break even on council finances this year. They said that the authority had been prevented from

meeting Mr Patten's target figure of £281 a head, even though it had reduced its overall budget from £190.1 million to the £178.5 million ordered by the government, for two reasons.

Douglas Hale, the council's finance director, said that, since the original charge was calculated in March, both the level of estimated non-payment and the amount of interest the council received from its collection fund, into which all council revenue, poll tax, revenue support grant and uniform business rate, is paid, had altered. Original estimates had put likely non-payment of the charge at 5 per cent, but it was now likely to be nearer 10 per cent, and interest from the collection fund had been revised to £357,000 rather than the £1,252 million provided for in the original calculation.

The council has to notify Mr Patten of its decision, and he may seek an injunction preventing the authority from charging the new figure, or initiate a judicial review. Mr Patten used such a measure against Haringey borough council, north London, after it had set a substitute charge higher than that stipulated by him.

Yesterday, in his report to councillors, Mr Hale said: "We have certain obligations under the law and we are carrying them out. It would be imprudent of the council to set its substitute charge at a lower level than that required to balance the books. This new charge of £298 will allow the council to achieve a break-even position."

Since losing its legal battle with the government, the council has introduced £5.5 million worth of cuts, with a further £6.1 million being withdrawn from its reserves. That will have a direct effect on the authority's capital programme over the next three years. The council has also earmarked £10.8 million of cuts to be made in the next financial year.

Mr Hale said that the figure had not been set in defiance of the government. "The poll tax is set so that we balance the books, which is what we are aiming to do despite the restraints forced on us by the government."

Gordon Gallimore, the leader of the council, said that, after losing the court case, the authority had had no choice but to instruct its officers to draw up a revised charge which, by law, had to make sure the books balanced. "This they have done, and we hope the new charge will not lead the government to court action. The council has already had to cut services as a result of poll capping and we hope the government will now let the matter rest."

Three people were arrested at Leicester magistrates' court yesterday when anti-poll tax demonstrators clashed with police. More than 100 demonstrators from the Leicester anti-poll tax federation tried to disrupt proceedings outside the court, where magistrates dealt with the first cases of alleged non-payment of the poll tax in the city.

Cooler day fails to put end to fire risk

By RAY CLANCY

WELCOME breezes kept most of Britain cool yesterday, but firefighters said that much of the country's grassland is still tinder dry with a high risk of major blazes.

During the past few days, fire brigades have dealt with the most grass fires since the hot summer of 1976.

An investigation is under way into the death of a fireman fighting a blaze in a field near Ashford, Kent, on Sunday. Neville Stocker, aged 55, of Ashford, died when engulfed by fast-moving flames and smoke. An inquest is to be held.

Some paths in the Yorkshire moors have been closed due to the fire risk. North Yorkshire Fire Brigade yesterday warned visitors to be vigilant. A spokesman said: "We ask people to be careful with cigarettes or matches. Even a piece of broken glass left lying can start a fire."

London Fire Brigade has received twice the usual number of calls in the past few days, and in Surrey about half the calls have been to grass fires. A fire at Ash Vale, Surrey, was being brought under control by about 40 firemen last night.

Weatherman said that there was no sign of rain over southern England, Wales and the Midlands to relieve the drought, but that there would be showers in Scotland. A London Weather Centre spokesman said: "Temperatures will pick up steadily towards the end of the week to the high 70s Fahrenheit, but nothing like the heatwave we have just had."

• A father and his teenage son and a young friend were rescued yesterday after 36 hours adrift in an open boat on the Irish Sea (Ronald Faux writes). Peter Lomas, aged 37, of Drummore, Mull of Gallows, his son Kristian, aged 14, and Gordon McCubbin, aged 12, of Stoneykirk, near Stranraer, drifted for two nights as an air-sea search went on around them. They had gone fishing on Saturday evening, but their outboard motor broke down.

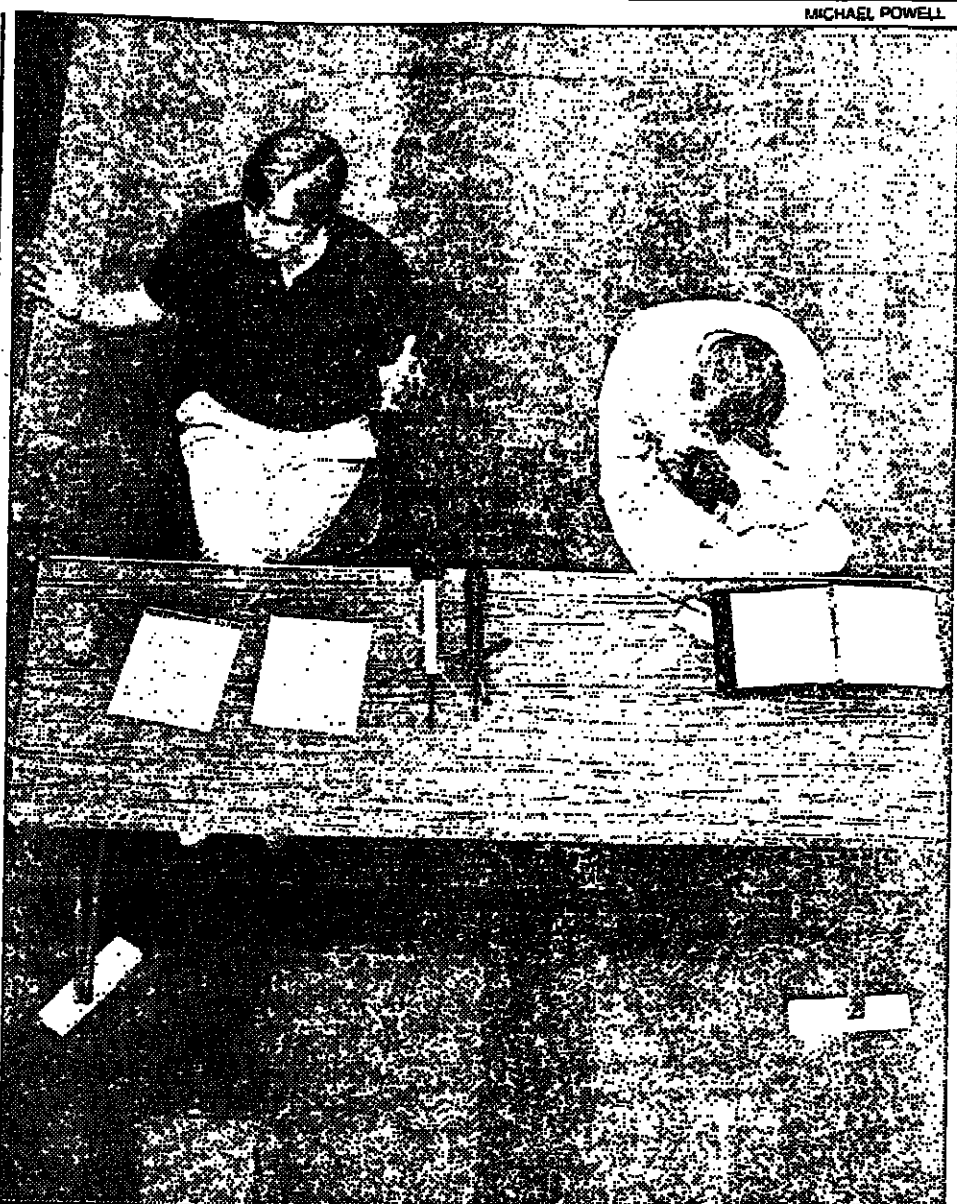
They were seen by an Isle of Man fishing vessel, Golden Reaper, early yesterday and taken ashore at Peel.

Science, page 15

CORRECTIONS

The caption to the photograph accompanying "Arms and the Coventry man" (Life and Times, July 6) was incorrect. The church spire shown was not that of Coventry cathedral but of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, which survived the Luftwaffe raid in 1940.

The President of the Kenya African National Union is President Moi not, as appeared in a foreign news report (August 3), President Kaunda.



Under threat: David Thacker, left, artistic director of the Young Vic, and Terry Hawkins, administration director, launching an appeal for £100,000 yesterday

Young Vic appeal seeks £100,000 to halt closure

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Young Vic, one of Britain's most artistically successful fringe theatres, will close in seven weeks if it fails to raise £100,000. The permanent staff of 22 have been given redundancy notices.

David Thacker, artistic director, launching an appeal for the money yesterday, said that the company had a deficit of £220,000, which he blamed on decreasing government subsidies. The theatre's last production would be the current one, Arthur Miller's play, *The Man Who Had Everything*, co-produced with the Bristol Old Vic.

The theatre was created 20 years ago by Lord Olivier and Frank Dunlop out of the National Theatre to attract younger audiences and give young actors experience. The Young Vic's fate will be an early challenge for the new arts minister, David Mellor. It could become the first major theatre to close because of a shortfall in public funding. Lambeth council, which is giving £49,000 to the theatre this year, will refuse it a theatre licence if safety improvements are not made by October 1.

The Arts Council, which increased its grant to the Young Vic by 7 per cent to £252,000 this year, underlined Mr Thacker's criticism. "This is yet another example of the difficulties which can arise if

the level of arts funding from the government fails to keep pace with inflation and there is no leeway to cope with unforeseen circumstances," the council said.

The company had a turnover of £1 million last year, but had to abandon its education programme and children's performances because of increasing difficulties.

A touring project launched three years ago to take productions to regional audiences was cancelled last year because it lost money instead of raising extra revenue as intended. The last production, Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, starring Natasha Richardson and directed by Mr Thacker, closed on July 14 having played to 42 per cent houses and leaving a shortfall of £30,000.

A number of recent productions have transferred to the West End, and the Young Vic's production of the work of Arthur Miller in particular has had critical praise. The *Price* by the American playwright, mounted earlier this year, attracted the theatre's biggest box office ever.

The Young Vic was set up in a building that cost £60,000 and was intended to last for five years. It still occupies the same building, which needs £75,000 spending on it merely to meet local authority safety requirements, in spite of expenditure on a new roof, the installation of a theatre-in-the-round, new heating and ventilation and a new studio theatre.

Sponsorship was difficult to find because the theatre was not ideal for entertaining, Anne Mayer, the publicity director, said. A public meeting is to be held at the theatre at 3pm on Sunday.

Arias to aid sea wall

AN OPERA company has been drafted in to help to save a beauty spot from being destroyed by the sea. The London-based Beaufort Company is to stage a series of open air concerts on Brownsea Island, Dorset, to raise money for a new sea wall.

The 500-acre National Trust nature reserve, regarded as the birthplace of British scouting, is at risk of flooding unless £350,000 is raised to repair its crumbling sea defences.

Barry Guest, warden of the reserve, said: "A flood study has shown that if the wall is breached at high tide, the island would be swamped. The existing wall is over 140 years old."

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The Guinness case

No evidence to link Lyons with a conspiracy, court is told

THERE was not a shred of evidence that the financier Sir Jack Lyons had been part of a conspiracy in the Guinness scandal, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Robert Harman, QC, representing Sir Jack, said that the prosecution had been "trigger happy" in its allegations against the financier and fanciful in many of its suggestions. His client and Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chief, were alleged to have taken part in a conspiracy during the company's takeover of Distillers in 1986.

He said the prosecution claimed that the two men had tried to induce Distillers shareholders to swap their shares for Guinness's by dishonestly concealing the fact that an Austrian bank had been offered indemnities against losses

in share dealings. In other words, Sir Jack had been part of a secret agreement to "offer indemnities, when he got the chance, to supporters he might recruit on the way". There was, however, not a shred of evidence to support that, Mr Harman said.

Sir Jack, aged 74, Mr Saunders, 55, Gerald Ronson, 50, head of Heron International, and Anthony Parnes, 45, a stockbroker, variously deny 22 charges, including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

It is alleged that they took part in an unlawful share support operation during Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover of the Scottish drinks group in which illegal payments of £25 million were made by Guinness after £40 million worth of its shares were bought on the basis of success fees and indemnities. The prosecution has alleged that Sir Jack received more than £3 million in illegal payments for his part in the support operation.

In his final speech on the 101st day of the trial, Mr Harman said that "behind a bland exterior there has been at times a trigger-happy prosecution. I hope to satisfy you that suggestions have been made against Sir Jack Lyons which in many instances have been shown to be demonstrably fanciful."

There were alternative interpretations for events which were "staring us in the eyes". Mr Harman said that the prosecution was wrong to claim that a lunch Sir Jack had had with the representative of an Austrian bank was an occasion where he tried to recruit the bank as part of the support operation. The official had confirmed under cross-examination "that the word indemnity was never mentioned as such".

Mr Harman said that his client was highly respected in business circles and in the arts world. "Sir Jack is a man who enjoys good character, unblemished at the age of 74. We say it makes it very much less likely that he would have embarked on a course of criminal conduct at the age of 70 than if he was a man of a third of that age," he said.

The case continues today.

Chess player accused of wounding

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CHESS player was remanded on bail yesterday after allegedly wounding another competitor in the neck with a broken table lamp during a row in a restaurant at Eastbourne, East Sussex, where the British chess championships are taking place.

Conor Bracken, aged 22, of Reading, Berkshire, was charged at Eastbourne with maliciously wounding Philip Hughes, aged 21, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Bracken has been barred from the Hill-Samuel major open championship, which is running parallel with the British championships at the town's Winter Gardens. Mr Hughes, who had not played Bracken, was recovering in hospital and was said to be comfortable.

George Smith, secretary of the chess congress, said: "This incident is to the detriment of the chess congress. We have never had anything like this before."



The plinth and cross being lifted at Stainmore Pass during the search for the grave of the marauding Viking ruler who died in 954

ARCHAEOLOGISTS began searching yesterday for the last resting place of one of Britain's bloodiest rulers, Erik Bloodaxe, head of the Kingdom of York and Northumbria in the final days of Viking domination.

He was killed in the battle of Stainmore in 954 AD, when his army was defeated by followers of the English King Eadred. Northumbria and North Yorkshire were the spoils of a victory that marked the first steps in the formation of the present border between England and Scotland.

At the highest point of Stainmore Pass, near Barnard Castle, Co Durham, a boundary marker known as Rey Cross has been battered by the weather for 1,000 years. According to legend, the cross, now just a

Searching for the grave of Erik Bloodaxe

stump of sandstone close by the A66, marks the grave of Erik Bloodaxe.

Yesterday the cross and plinth were lifted and moved to the nearby Bowes Museum. The A66 is to be widened, but for the next few months experts will dig away at the site in the hope of finding Erik Bloodaxe's tomb. Erik, son of a king of Norway, and the epitome of a marauding Viking, acquired

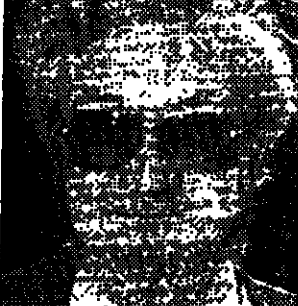
his surname after murdering two of his brothers. Later, after numerous battles, he took charge of York and Northumbria.

John Pickin, antiquities officer at Bowes Museum, asked whether the project will unearth Erik's remains, said: "Archaeology is full of surprises. Local legend and some historical facts indicate that he could be down there."

The Rey Cross will be examined in minute detail by museum staff before being put on show. Sensitive photographic equipment will be used to try to decipher inscriptions that have become invisible to the naked eye. Then, when work on the A66 has been completed in 18 months, the cross will return to Stainmore.

Priest criticises Carey over handling of dismissal

By a STAFF REPORTER



Turns: "Dismissal letter came out of the blue"

A PRIEST who yesterday lost his claim that he was unfairly dismissed by the Church of England said that he feared for the future of the church with Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury designate, at its head.

Father Keith Turns, former senior assistant priest at All Saints Church at Clevedon, Avon, claimed that he was dismissed "out of the blue" in a letter from his rector, the Rev John Smart, in August 1989.

Speaking after an industrial tribunal in Bristol had refused his ap-

plication for a hearing, Father Turns said: "In my opinion, what the church has done is un-Christian. I do not think Dr Carey has acted honourably during these proceedings."

Father Turns, who has been ordained for 19 years, took his case to an industrial tribunal after claiming that his rector had sacked him because of a personality clash.

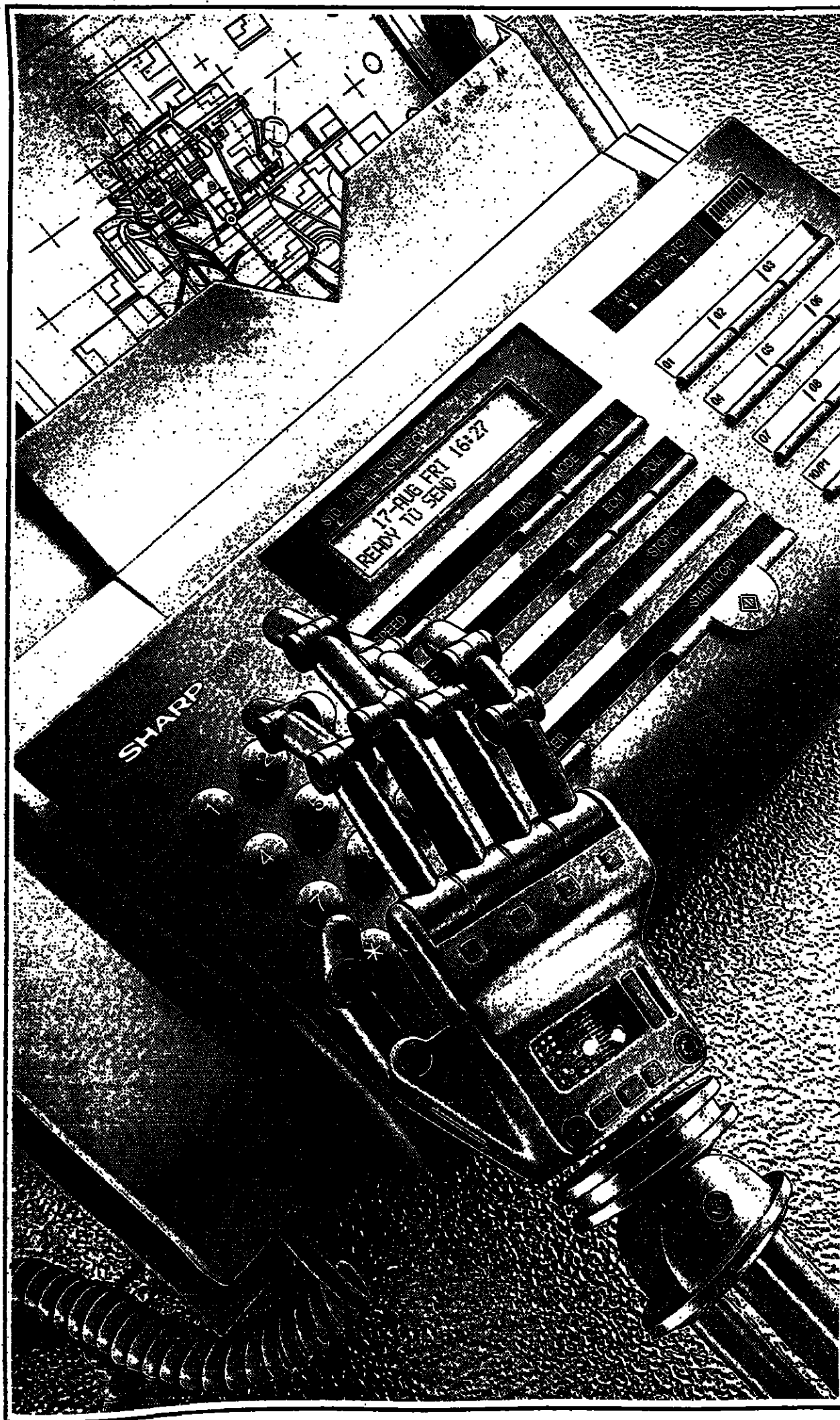
Roland Callaby, for the diocese of Bath and Wells, said Father Turns had "accepted a calling to serve God in the church. Your duties in serving the church are

defined by your conscience, not by a term of employment." Father Turns's case was dismissed by the tribunal panel after it ruled he did not have a contract of employment with the diocese of Bath and Wells.

Mr Turns, who runs a business in Carrog, Clwyd, North Wales, said he would consider whether to appeal. "I feel very aggrieved towards the way the church has acted and I don't know whether I would ever want to go back into it. I would not give up my licence with the diocese but I might consider changing my faith away from the

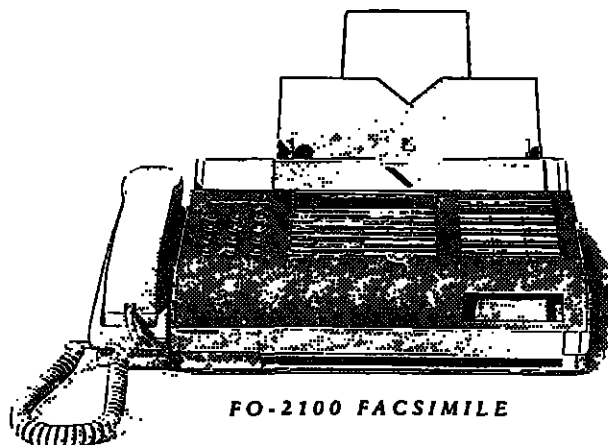
Anglican church to another catholic religion."

After the hearing, the Ven John Burgess, Archdeacon of Bath, said: "The 1911 National Insurance Act makes it clear that clergy of all religions be they Christian, Sikh, Muslim or anything else, are self-employed. In the case of Father Turns, the diocese of Bath and Wells could only state that this was the current situation and that a tribunal had no power to try his unfair dismissal claim. Only government legislation could change the contractual position of clergy."



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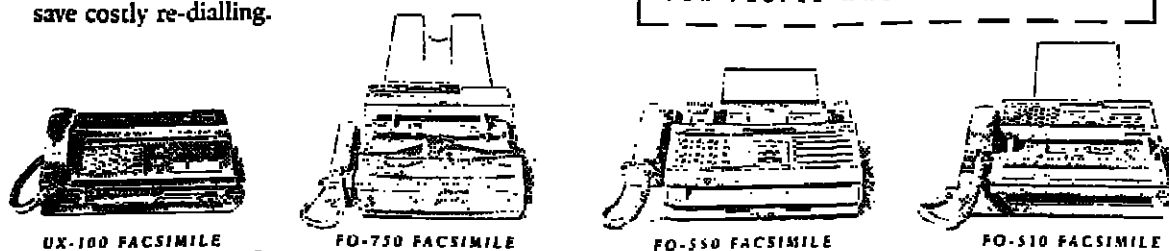
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Willis warns unions to keep party line on strike laws

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN WILLIS, the TUC general secretary, is attempting to prevent an inter-union dispute over employment legislation that he believes could lose Labour the next election.

Mr Willis plans to head off a split between the union movement and the Labour party by warning union leaders today that they will be playing into the hands of the Conservatives if they reject a general council statement on employment law. TUC leaders are concerned that "the winter of discontent", which contributed to the defeat of the last Labour government, in 1979, could be raised as an election issue if delegates to next month's congress insist on the abolition of all "anti-union laws" enacted by the Tories.

The general council statement is in line with Labour party policy under which the numbers of pickets will be determined through a statutory code; secondary action will be limited; ballots will be required before a strike; and union officials will be subjected to elections.

Mr Willis's warning appears to be aimed primarily at the 750,000-strong National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), which, although not named in his statement, has accused the Labour party of adopting much of the basic philosophy of Tory policy.

Alan Jinkinson, NALGO's general secretary, has emerged as one of the main critics of what he sees as pressure to make the TUC and its affiliates abandon their principles.

His union has called for the right of workers to picket without any restriction on numbers and for the right to determine their own constitutions free of state interference.

The TUC, like the Labour party, wants individual unions to be able to pursue legitimate interests under an agreed framework, but is anxious to prevent them having the freedom of action that caused such public concern in the 1970s.

In its policy document, the TUC says that, in line with common European practice, unions should have a right to take sympathy action where the groups have a direct interest of an occupational and professional nature. Mr Jinkinson, who emphasises that he is not advocating violent mass picketing, believes that local government workers, for example, should have the right to support striking ambulance crews or refuse to handle South African goods in support of the anti-apartheid campaign.

Although it is unlikely that the TUC will carry a NALGO motion that calls for the repeal of all Tory employment laws and the restoration of union rights and immunities, Mr Willis appreciates that the motion is attracting sufficient support to damage Labour at what could be the last TUC conference before the general election.

"The election has yet to be won and lost, and our deliberations could play no small role in setting the agenda," Mr Willis says.



Jason Landy and Paul Evans, from Aberconwy comprehensive school, Gwynedd, get their sea legs at Port Dinorwic before setting off for the Azores on the 72ft Francis Drake. They fill two scholarship places on the voyage being undertaken by St David's College, Llandudno

Welsh passports win the day

By ROBIN YOUNG

WELSH nationalists claimed victory on a day trip to France yesterday because they returned to Britain on home-made Welsh passports.

Eight day-trippers, supporters of the Free Welsh Covenant Society, were allowed through immigration controls at Dover even though they carried no valid travel documents. They showed officials their green Welsh passports emblazoned with a dragon and with information printed only in Welsh and French.

The group claimed to have had a good-natured reception at Dover. "Both sides put their point of view and then we were allowed in," one said. "I suppose the officers could tell by our accents that we were Welsh and had the right to live here."

The covenanter says that printing their own passports is only a preliminary step in a campaign to assert Welsh independence. A Home Office spokesman said, however, that people could be allowed into the country without British passports if immigration officers were satisfied that they were entitled to live in Britain.

"Being allowed into England on a Welsh passport is a very far cry from everyone having to show a passport to get into Wales, which is what these people say they want," the spokesman added.

Language fighters have say with Hunt

DAVID Hunt, the Secretary of State for Wales, broke ground at the Welsh National Eisteddfod yesterday when he had impromptu talks on the future of the Welsh language with noisy protesters.

Making a surprise visit to the festival in the Rhymney Valley, Mr Hunt was greeted by about 100 demonstrators, some with megaphones, shouting in Welsh, "We will hunt him round the field." The group, many of them members of the Welsh Language Society, are calling for a new Welsh language act.

Like previous secretaries of state, Mr Hunt has refused discussions with the group until they abandon illegal activities, such as breaking into government offices and scrawling graffiti. However, already accepted as a man who will listen to everyone's point of view, Mr Hunt listened courteously to the protesters' demands face-to-face on the eisteddfod field.

"What they had to say was very reasonable. I want to know everybody's views on the matter before taking action," Mr Hunt said. "I have had formal discussions with the Welsh Language Board and I know what they want. The Welsh Language Society appeared to reject its views but I refuse to hold official talks with them until they abandon their illegal activities."

Mr Hunt, whose first language was Welsh, said he was deeply committed to the future of the Welsh language and was anxious that the Welsh nation, Welsh speakers or not, were united in their desire to see it preserved.

Government funding for the language stands at £6.8 million a year.

The new Arch Druid of Wales, William George, said the message from the eisteddfod had to be a call for a new Welsh language act — giving the language official status.

Ex-MP 'spent night in hut after illegal eviction'

A FORMER Conservative MP spent a night in a workman's roadside hut after being unlawfully thrown out of his flat by his landlords, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, aged 56, MP for Belper from 1970 to 1974, was a bankrupt and owed his landlords almost £1,500 in rent at the time he was turned out of the street without money or possessions, the court was told.

Mr Stewart-Smith, now of Ashle, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, told the court that his landlord, Philip Hodgson, aged 33, snatched the front door key from him after luring him outside the house containing the flat, in Pimlico, southwest London. Mr Hodgson threw the keys to his wife, Maria, aged 33, and shouted at her to shut the door.

Mr Stewart-Smith said: "I was totally convinced that I would not be let back into the flat. I felt a burning sense that I had been assaulted and robbed and illegally evicted." He added: "I was absolutely hysterical with anger and rage."

The Hodgsons, who live in the ground-floor flat of the house, deny unlawfully evicting Mr Stewart-Smith on April 24 last year.

The former MP said that he had tried to persuade the Hodgsons to let him back into the house, so that the matter could be sorted out amicably. The landlords refused to let him in unless he handed over the money he owed them.

"I thought the Hodgsons might try to take my stuff away that night," he said. "There was a British Telecom workers' hut across the road and I stayed there, wide awake, all night."

He had been terrified that the landlords would destroy documents that he needed for an appeal court hearing the next day.

The former MP said that he had been certain that the eviction was criminal and had gone straight to a police station. The police, however, were said to have told him that the dispute was a civil one and to consult a solicitor.

Mr Stewart-Smith first went to live in the flat in June 1988. He said he had been declared bankrupt in 1987, and that his son had signed the initial rental agreement for six months. During that time his family paid the £520 a month. Problems began after he

began missing the payments himself. By April last year he owed the Hodgsons £1,426 in rent and rates.

The former MP said he gave the couple a cheque for that amount on March 28, but told them not to try to cash it until he had arranged for funds to be put in his account. The landlords twice tried to cash the cheque and on both occasions it bounced.

The former MP described defence suggestions that he had vacated the flat in March, without paying the rent, as "absolute rubbish, bunkum, fantasy and fabrication."

Mr Stewart-Smith admitted that he had been under stress at the time of the incident.

The court was told that last October he spent time in hospital after a drunk pushed him under an Underground train.

The trial continues today.

Cleaner trapped for 46 hours

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN office cleaner trapped in an unventilated room for 46 hours during the weekend survived by drinking the contents of a fire extinguisher, colleagues discovered when they released him yesterday.

Jason Mallinson, aged 16, had lost a stone in weight and become delirious after a fire door blew closed and trapped him in a box room at the post office in Swindon, Wiltshire. His mother, Julie Mallinson, has demanded to know how he could have been left in the building, where all staff are supposed to check in and out.

Although Jason set off a fire alarm on Sunday, it rang unheeded for several hours and he was still not found when security staff searched the building and switched it off. When colleagues let him out yesterday morning, the teenager did not know what day it was and he was so weak he could not eat.

A post office spokesman said Jason had left the keys outside the secure room he was cleaning and had propped the door open with a fire extinguisher. "When the door slammed shut he was stuck," he said. That security arrangements would be reviewed and Jason would be allowed two days off work.

Doctors call for smoking ban on all flights

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE World Health Organisation and the British Medical Association called yesterday for all airlines to ban smoking on passenger flights.

The move is based on growing evidence of the hazards of passive smoking to air travellers, and on a survey by the two organisations suggesting that some airlines would support a ban if it were imposed by governments or international agencies.

The survey, published yesterday, shows that 15 out of 18 United Kingdom airlines have reviewed their policies on smoking, most of them within the last year. Nine of the 18 operate smoke-free domestic flights and all the others ban pipes and cigars and restrict smoking to small sections of the aircraft.

Consumer pressure was the main reason given by airlines for imposing bans or restrictions. "There would be some support for a mandatory ban on all in-flight smoking, but the initiative would have to come from a monitoring body rather than the airlines themselves," the survey says.

According to the WHO and the BMA, passive smoking — involuntary inhalation of cigarette fumes by non-smokers — leads to 300 lung cancer deaths in the United Kingdom each year, and 3,800 a year in the United States.

In London yesterday, the two organisations produced a study involving non-smoking passengers and flight attendants in America. It showed that they had measurable levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, in their urine after a four-hour flight on which some passengers smoked.

Martin Jarvis, a scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said that cigarettes produced up to 4,000 chemicals, of which 60 per cent were carcinogenic. "On an aircraft, non-smokers are not insulated against the smoke from their fellow passengers, and this study shows some of the effects," he said.

Alistair MacMillan, of the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, said that air in aircraft was "simply humidified and recirculated".

Man, 33, dies from wasp sting

An agricultural contractor, aged 33, died before he had time to swallow life-saving anti-histamine tablets after he was stung by a wasp in the garden of his home at Wellow, near Bath, Avon.

Richard Phillips, a married man with two daughters, was put into a van by his wife and driven towards a hospital. She flagged down an ambulance on the way, but he died of an allergic reaction. He nearly died of a wasp sting five years ago and carried the anti-histamine pills as a precaution.

Home saved

A house said to have been a wartime headquarters and home of the late Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, has been saved from demolition. The environment department has upheld a council decision to refuse planning permission for a block of flats on the site.

Safe landing

A Yugoslavian Boeing 737 carrying 130 British holiday-makers made an emergency landing at Birmingham yesterday because of engine failure. No one was hurt.

Mail shock

An Isle of Wight man sifting through his mail yesterday found a 3ft-long, black rat snake, a native of the United States, asleep in his letterbox.

Tree order

The London borough of Islington was granted another 56 days by the High Court yesterday to comply with an order to cut down a 150-year-old horse chestnut tree in St Paul's Place, now occupied by protesters trying to save it.

Horse power

Gypsies in a pony and trap managed to escape from police after racing along the busy A27 dual carriageway at Lewes, Sussex, yesterday in spite of being pursued by a patrol car and helicopter.

Boat death

A navigator in a powerboat race at Allhallows, Kent, died of a broken spine after his boat hit a bank of water at 60mph. He has not been named.

Kangaroo hunt

Train crews reported a kangaroo hopping near tracks at Bookham, Surrey, yesterday. The animal was not found in spite of a safari-style search by transport police.

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Short-lived triumph for first Muslim woman leader



Bhutto: power after 11 years in the wilderness

From REUTER IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR Bhutto won her place in history as the first Muslim woman prime minister, but found that leading Pakistan's transition from long military rule to democracy was not easy.

Miss Bhutto and her government were dismissed yesterday by President Ishaq Khan, who dissolved parliament and ordered national elections. The president, speaking at a press conference, said that the government no longer commanded public confidence and cited abuse of power, nepotism and corruption.

The Opposition leader, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who had announced at the weekend that he planned to topple Miss Bhutto in a vote of no confidence in parliament, was sworn in as caretaker prime minister immediately afterwards.

Miss Bhutto had been forced at times to compromise with a power-

ful presidency and the military while fighting unrelenting onslaughts from her political opponents. In recent months opponents had questioned her government's ability to maintain order as her home province of Sind was convulsed by ethnic violence.

A Western-educated daughter of a prime minister executed by the military strongman who ousted him, Miss Bhutto emerged triumphant from elections in November 1988 after 11 years of imprisonment, exile and powerless opposition.

But the battle was far from over. Her opponents regrouped and kept up remorseless fire on her inexperienced minority government, distracting it from the urgent business of development, stoking up simmering ethnic tensions and calling into question hopes of a new democratic era.

Despite the bitterness and the

disappointment, Miss Bhutto remained publicly confident, her idealism as prominent as ever. "I feel so strongly about what I am doing," she said in a newspaper interview in May. "I really feel that a country like Pakistan needs freedom and the rule of law and for me it is an objective for which I am prepared to sacrifice everything."

The opposition, however, saw no idealism in her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government, just incompetence, vindictiveness, corruption and a betrayal of Islamic values and national interests.

That she survived in office as long as she did surprised many commentators, who had expected her government to last a few months at most.

Miss Bhutto maintained a high profile abroad. In Western and many other countries she was seen largely as a photogenic champion of women's rights in an Islamic soci-

ety, of civilian rule and of the democratic system. For the PPP faithful she remained the heroine of the struggle against the former military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Miss Bhutto's crusade began in July 1977 when General Zia, the army chief, overthrew her beloved father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the prime minister. Twenty-one months later it became a blood feud when her father was hanged after a controversial trial.

For 11 years Miss Bhutto fought vainly against President Zia, but his cunning and control of the armed forces made him impregnable. Then, in August 1988, he was killed in a still-unexplained aircraft crash and everything changed.

Miss Bhutto, although weak from the birth of her first child, took to the hustings with gusto and the magic of the Bhutto name proved as potent as ever. Her every appear-

ance was met by tens of thousands of frenzied supporters waving PPP flags.

Miss Bhutto won 39 per cent of the vote, the same as her father had in 1970. That left the PPP the biggest party in parliament, but short of an overall majority.

When President Ishaq Khan nominated her as prime minister, supporters wept for joy, set off fireworks and fired guns in the air. She was 35.

Conservative mullahs, however, were unreconciled, saying a woman was not meant by God to govern, although her visits later to orthodox Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, and to shrines there, seemed to weaken that objection. Nevertheless, open warfare soon began between the PPP and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance.



Ishaq Khan: accused Bhutto of abuse of power

Leading article, page 11

Kohl under pressure from early unity drive

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

PRESSURE for early German unification, possibly this week and not tied to an election, is growing on both sides of the border. The declared reason is to counter the deteriorating economic situation in East Germany. The real reason is a bid by opposition parties to steal the political initiative from Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor.

Even if the unity process is rushed forward, however, it cannot happen fully until after the next meeting of the foreign ministers from the two Germanies and the four second world war allies, which must approve the external security aspects involved. They are not due to meet until early next month in Moscow,

when they could give the necessary permission.

The call for fast unity is being spearheaded by the opposition Social Democrats, who want to force Herr Kohl, a Christian Democrat, to take over responsibility for running the united country for three months before the planned elections on December 2. The Social Democratic Party calculates that because the East German economy is crashing out of control, every day that passes the chancellor will lose support.

The SPD is not alone in wanting early unity. Lothar de Maiziere, the East German prime minister, first suggested early elections and unity last week. According to Klaus Reichenbach, his chancellor's minister, "We should do it in September at the latest, perhaps in August. There are no objective reasons against it. Even the prime minister agrees to that." Herr Reichenbach told *Bild* that East Germany's economic difficulties one month after monetary union were far worse than expected. "Money is short everywhere. Money circulation has collapsed. Consumers have no money to pay for goods. It can all collapse now. The hole in our budget is gigantic."

The German Social Union, the small, most right-wing member of the East German coalition, is joining forces with the Social Democratic Party in the east to put forward a motion in the Volkskammer tomorrow calling for union by the end of this month.

Representatives of the Social Democrats from both East and West Germany met in Bonn last night to co-ordinate action for early unity while opposing the chancellor's bid for elections on October 14.

Today Herr Kohl meets Hans-Jochen Vogel, the Social Democrat leader, in an attempt to persuade him that it is in the national interest to combine unity with an election on October 14.

A special session of the Bundestag will meet tomorrow and Thursday to pass the second state treaty which resolves the legal problems created by unity and to agree a joint election procedure for the first elections.

● **Chancellor booted:** Herr Kohl was booed by "expellees" from the former German territories now in western Poland when he told them that they must abandon all hope of recovering their homeland.

Speaking at a gathering of them in Bad Cannstatt near Stuttgart, he said they faced a clear choice: either they gave up their claims or they would lose the chance of German unity.

Vietnam in first formal US talks

New York — The United States and Vietnam held their first formal talks on Cambodia yesterday. A step diplomats said could eventually open a process towards normalizing relations.

The head of the American delegation to the one-day talks at the Vietnamese mission, Kenneth Quinn, deputy assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs, will return immediately to Washington and make a statement, diplomats said. US officials said there would be further formal contacts. (AP)

Army massacre

Catobato City — Twenty-one Muslims killed by troops in the southern Philippines in what the military had said was a gun battle were civilian victims of an army massacre, a government human rights panel said. (Reuters)

Fighter demand

Delhi — The Indian air force, angered by delays in the country's light combat aircraft project, has asked the defence ministry to consider buying Western-made advanced fighters, senior air force officials said. British-made Hawks and French-made Alpha jets were the leading contenders. (Reuters)

Temples razed

Peking — Chinese police have arrested 25 leaders of a Buddhist sect and razed 13 of its temples after accusing it of attacking the Communist party and plotting to establish a "Lotus kingdom", a Chinese newspaper said. (Reuters)

Boys murdered

Jerusalem — Two teenage Israeli boys were found murdered two days after disappearing on their way to visit a friend in Arab East Jerusalem. Police said that they may have been kidnapped by Palestinian nationalists. (Reuters)

Airstrips alert

Rio de Janeiro — The Brazilian government is to restart dynamiting airstrips illegally built by gold miners on Indian territory in the northern Amazonian state of Roraima after reports that the miners have rebuilt airstrips destroyed in May and are preparing to return in force.

Blaze controlled

Rome — Fire fighters using helicopters and special planes to ferry water from the Mediterranean, contained a widespread forest fire which had threatened the Tuscan sea port of Livorno and beach resorts.



The wives of the African National Congress president and his deputy, Adelaide Tambo, left, and Winnie Mandela, in Johannesburg yesterday. Mrs Tambo was making her first visit to South Africa after 30 years' exile

Poles bring back school religion

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

RELIGION classes will be re-introduced in all Polish schools, including kindergartens, from the beginning of the new school year next month.

The hard-fought agreement between the Roman Catholic Church and the Solidarity-led government, announced yesterday, is part of a continuing battle over the character of the post-communist state.

Hungary is in the grip of a similar conflict. In a test case last month, Hungarian parents resisted attempts by the Catholic Church to take over the famous Arany Janos School in Budapest.

The issues in the three Catholic-dominated areas of Eastern Europe — Poland, Hungary and Slovakia — span abortion, compulsory religion classes and the presence of crucifixes at the workplace

and at schools. After four decades of repression, the church is anxious to claw back some of its traditional territory. In Hungary, for example, about 2,000 church schools were closed by the communists.

Many East Europeans, however, including the new governing class, want to keep church and state strictly separate. They are trying to retain the laws that allow easy abortion and divorce and are worried that religious bigotry may fill the vacuum left by the collapse of communism. Such is the attitude of the Polish government, despite the close ties with the church maintained by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister.

The new ruling on religious education in Poland stipulates that the classes, to be held

twice a week, will be attended by all children whose parents agree. For those with dissenting parents, there will be alternative classes in ethics.

Classes in religious education will not be the broad "religious knowledge" of British schools, but will concentrate on the Roman Catholic catechism. However, the government has not completely caved in to the demands of the bishops. Religion grades will not affect the child's overall marks. Prayers can now be said before and after classes, but not if they offend any of the pupils.

The former communist daily newspaper, *Trybuna*, denounced the agreement yesterday, saying it was a behind-the-scenes deal that should have been fully debated in parliament. Instead, it was slipped in during the summer recess.

UK envoy to pull out of Liberia

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Michael Gore, the British ambassador in Monrovia, and three of his staff are to be escorted from Liberia by US marines.

A spokesman said they would be collected within 48 hours, probably by helicopters operating from US warships just off the Liberian coast.

The marines have rescued

121 Americans and 12 people of other nationalities. President Bush ordered the evacuation after Prince Johnson, a rebel leader, threatened to arrest all foreigners.

The British embassy will stay open, however. The Foreign Office considered closing it but decided not to partly because returning could be difficult. It also wanted to

continue providing some protection for the 50 Britons who have refused to leave.

The embassy will be staffed by Stephen Seaman, previously the ambassador's deputy.

Between 2,000 and 5,000 other foreigners, mostly Nigerians, are still in Monrovia. Nigeria has sent warships to bring out its citizens.

recess. "Religion has entered our schools through the scullery door — not a good omen," the newspaper said. Even radical Catholic parliamentarians, such as Senator Jozefa Henckelowa, are wary of moving too quickly in reinstating the church's influence. "You don't need a religious state to acknowledge a society's Christian roots — it is enough to have an honest state," she said.

In Hungary, the new education minister, Dr Bertalan Andrasfalvy, has also brought back religious education in schools. There is a risk, liberals in Poland and Hungary say, that the "opting-out" clause will not be exercised and that there will be considerable peer pressure to attend catechism classes.

By taking an increasing share in the management of grammar schools, the church will be able to tip the balance from voluntary to compulsory religion classes.

Miklos Haraszti, a leader of the Alliance of Free Democrats, the main Hungarian opposition, said: "It would be an unfortunate decision to make religious education part of a national curriculum and contradict the recent commitment to a separation of state and church. Bringing them together like this would violate the principle of freedom of conscience. Religious education belongs to the church, not to the state."

Soviet reforms earmark more aid for children

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A SENIOR Soviet government official yesterday outlined new social security provisions designed to improve living standards for two-thirds of the 30 million people living below the state-decreed poverty line. Vladimir Shcherbakov, chairman of the Soviet state committee on labour and social resources, (Goskomtrud), said that the changes would cost more than 45 billion roubles (£45 billion at the official exchange rate), to be met from tax revenue and savings deposits that were higher than expected.

Mr Shcherbakov revealed that 11 per cent of the population were living on less than 75 roubles a month. Many are pensioners, most of whom will see their income doubled as a result of new pension provisions, but more than half are families with more than two children. The new allowances are to take effect from December 1, a month before likely price rises connected with the transfer of the economy to market principles.

The bulk of the increases will be new child allowances. Single payments have previously been made on the birth of a child, followed by 18 small monthly allowances. No allowances were paid, however, for children aged between 18 months and six years, unless there were four or more children in the family, when between four and 15 roubles were paid under a regulation unchanged since 1944. This could leave a mother who was not working and whose husband was called up for military service receiving an income of only 35 roubles — the allowance due for the first child.

From December, 35 roubles will be paid monthly for each child, with additional allowances for single parents or mothers with husbands conscripted into the army. Mr Shcherbakov said that this was the first stage of a comprehensive reorganization of Soviet social security provision, which would include a raising of the notional poverty line, the calculation of a cost of living index based on a "basket" of consumer goods and services, and transfer of state production subsidies to needy individuals.

He said that four billion roubles were currently spent on subsidies for children's goods and clothes. This sum would be transferred to parents as part of the new child allowances. At present, he said, one in four of Moscow's taxi drivers were wearing items of school uniform because they are so much cheaper.

Yesterday's announcement, made for the benefit of the Soviet as well as the foreign press, was part of a concerted effort by the Soviet government to prepare the public for the final version of the government's economic reform programme. The first version, passed in principle by the Supreme Soviet in May but sent back for redrafting, was

Women a target for atrocities in Kashmir

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AS INDIA tightens security in Kashmir, international observers and human rights organisations are alarmed by increasing evidence of the rape and torture of Muslim women by security forces.

Under powers introduced by the state government on April 2, the army and Border Security Force have been given almost unfettered powers to search, seize and arrest. Atrocities against women appear to have increased substantially since then.

A Delhi-based human rights group, the Committee for Initiative on Kashmir, has published a detailed account of rape and torture in the valley, concluding that "there seems to be a deliberate attempt to make women the primary target of attack by security forces". It is the first in-depth report by any human rights group since the army started taking control of the Kashmir valley early this year.

The predominantly Muslim population there is outraged by the atrocities and staged a three-day strike that brought the region to a standstill. Security forces imposed a curfew in Srinagar, the valley's capital, yesterday as they announced that they had seized two of the most wanted men — Yasin Malik, described as commander-in-chief of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and his deputy, Hamid Sheikh.

"Of all the atrocities committed by the security forces, the treatment of Kashmiri women has embittered the people of the valley the most," the Committee for Initiative on Kashmir said in its report, *Kashmir Imprisoned*.

Trials point up alienated blacks' hatred of system

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE courtroom melodramas of the Central Park jogger and Mayor Marion Barry of Washington have illuminated the sense of injustice that many black Americans feel towards the "white system".

The degree of black support for defendants whom most whites long ago dismissed as guilty speaks for the gulf that persists between the races a quarter of a century after the civil rights victories and the emergence of black power.

The uproar over the trials also reflects the strength of black "nationalist" sentiment, enjoying its biggest surge since the early 1970s. This black consciousness is most visible to the rest of the country as a defiant attitude, an aggressive new pride among younger blacks in African-style dress,

music and language that is impenetrable and alarming to many whites.

In New York, where tensions are amplified by the fierce competition among tabloid newspapers and broadcasters, the conversation topic of the summer has been the way that black activists have taken over the trial of three black youths for the rape and attempted murder of the white jogger.

With televised confessions from two of the youths, made in the presence of their parents, and strong evidence against the third, it had seemed to many whites that there could be no defence. But lawyers have argued that the confessions were coerced and black leaders have rallied to the youths' side. As demonstrators chant daily outside the court, sympathisers jeer at the prosecutors. The supporters tell the media that the jogger, a 29-

year-old white executive who was raped, beaten and left for dead, was, variously, never attacked, raped by her boyfriend or went out seeking sexual adventure.

When the victim appeared in court, she was jeered. A black crowd chanted "whore" when she was driven away, prompting soul-searching among left-wing commentators and feminists who have been struggling to find a politically correct interpretation of the jogger affair.

While militant black newspapers and radio stations denounce the trial as a judicial farce, moderate commentators have sought to explain their rationale.

"The fear in the black community is of a system out of control, of police and prosecutors using blacks almost as interchangeable parts", Earl Caldwell, a *Daily News* columnist, said. Prosecutors just

wanted to find a black to blame for the type of crime "known to be committed by blacks". In Washington, a similar logic explains the defiant support for Mr Barry, in the face of a stream of evidence about his alleged drug habits and the famous videotape of him smoking crack in an FBI trap.

When Mr Barry's lawyers claimed that a team of government agents was co-ordinating a campaign to destroy black political leaders, much of white America dismissed the notion as ludicrous, but it was believable to many blacks. As two reporters wrote in the *Washington Post*: "The trial has become a lightning rod ... Many African Americans believe a kind of cultural apartheid rules the nation and their response is to assert their own black identity."

Black newspapers and radio stations support the notion, propa-

gated first by Louis Farrakhan, that whites are plotting to keep blacks down. Mr Farrakhan wins huge applause with his claims that Aids and the drugs epidemic were devised by whites as a way of exterminating blacks.

Mr Farrakhan drew big crowds to Washington appearances recently where he demanded retribution for the evil done by white America and the Jews. The black Muslim leader was appearing with Tawana Brawley, the New York teenager who caused a furore when she claimed that a gang of white men had raped her three years ago. Her tale was exposed as a hoax, but she has remained a martyr to the black militant movement.

On Monday, crowds applauded when the Rev Al Sharpton, the most provocative of the local activists, accompanied her to the jogger trial to "see how white

justice treats black victims differently from white ones". Many blacks have little time for the extremists and showmen, but many are sympathetic to a militant argument that is gaining ground. This holds that the reality of an event is secondary to the racial resonance it evokes.

Jesse Jackson has produced an intellectual frame for the process. Whites, he says, focus on the facts while blacks are concerned about context: the mayor's prosecution must be viewed in the light of the prosecutors' motives and the history of white persecution of blacks in America.

Opinion polls indicate that most black Americans do not support the extreme utterances of Mr Farrakhan on Aids and drugs, but most share the view that whites fail to take account of the magnitude of black grievances.

Trickle down, gushing up

Raymond Plant

When assessing the Department of Social Security's figures about households with below average incomes, it is important to be clear about one's criteria. Here, of course, right and left part company. For the left, poverty is related to inequality, through the idea of relative poverty. A person is poor if he cannot take part in activities that are valued in the society in which he or she lives. This is a difficult idea to quantify, but one yardstick is the EC definition: a person is poor if he or she receives less than half the average income in society. In a growing economy, the gap can only widen.

Although the government pours cold water on the idea of relative poverty, it was not the invention of left-wing sociologists of the 1960s. Rather, it is to be found in the work of Adam Smith, the principal guru of economic liberalism. The right, however, rejects the idea of relative poverty because it would sanction distributive policies, which gives the state a central role in the distribution of resources, so as to ensure that people have the basic means of citizenship. More precisely, many on the left would like to bring everyone up to or near to half the average income.

In the view of the new right, inequality is necessary if there are to be incentives in a dynamic economy. Distributive politics assumes that you can only make the poor richer by making the rich poorer, and this is a dangerous fallacy. It assumes that economics is a zero-sum game, which will lock social groups into an anarchic struggle for economic resources. In the view of the right, it is better to rely on the trickle-down effect of the free market, with the money the rich spend today trickling down to the rest of society, including the worst off, over time.

This view assumes that what matters to the poorest sections of society is not the gap between them and the rich, but whether their own income is increasing year by year. The poor person is principally interested in whether his or her real income is higher this year than it was last year irrespective of the relative gap between that income and the rest of society. So figures showing a growth in inequality will not trouble the government. The trickle-down effect would have ceased to work only if the real income of the poorest was falling.

So in the poverty debate, left and right have different criteria. The left sees inequality and the relative gap between rich and poor as central; the right argues that what matters is that the real incomes of the poor are rising, irrespective of whether those of the rich are rising faster. Those who doubt that this is the view of the government should consult

the series of speeches made by John Moore just before he ceased to be social security secretary, and should consider the strategy of the 1988 Budget.

So how do the figures in the recent report look in the light of these two approaches? Between 1979 and 1987, average income rose by 23 per cent; those in the top 1 per cent of income distribution saw their income rise by 80 per cent; for median households in the bottom 1 per cent, incomes rose by 0.1 per cent after inflation.

So, interpreting the trickle-down effect strictly, it can be argued that although the real income of the median household in the poorest groups rose by a minuscule amount, it did rise. However, those who have praised the virtues of the trickle-down effect have usually assumed that the outcome for the poor would be better than this. Indeed, the figures also reveal that the income of 1.3 million people actually fell in real terms, by 6 per cent.

If we take the EC poverty line of half average income, poverty doubled from 4.93 million in 1979 to 10.5 million in 1987. It is difficult not to believe that the hidden hand of the market is making a rather rude gesture to the worst-off members of society. Remember too that these figures are based on statistics gathered before the introduction of the Fowler changes in social security benefits, and that the poor are now likely to be still worse off.

The problem for the left is to argue that inequality matters in itself. Why does it matter that the income of the top 1 per cent increased by 80 per cent, or that of the mid decile group by more than 10 per cent? Unless labour clearly states the argument about inequality, it is unlikely to mobilise sufficient support for tax changes to improve the lot of the poor.

One way of putting the case for limiting inequality is in terms of empowerment. Government ministers have talked about the empowering effects of the market, but it is not clear that the market alone — with all the large inequalities it produces — can be empowering. This has to do with the nature of power. If power is an infinitely expandable good, then a dynamic market can empower people by putting more money in their pockets. But this is a dubious view of power, for power is essentially relational. I have power in relation to you only because you have less of it than I. Our relative position is vital, and power is inextricably linked to inequality. If this is so, the power of other groups in society is diminished. So limiting inequality is central to empowering the worst off, and the market, whatever its other virtues, cannot empower the poor.

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

...and moreover

GRUFF RHYS JONES

I am searching for a new word. It is a word like "fallacism" or, more colloquially, "yebby", as in "I did a right yebby the other day", or even "I made a proper yebby of myself". It means the act of doing something which should not be done, but which you realise should not be done only by the act of doing it. Ridley's Syndrome, in fact.

Walking the street in Los Angeles: that's yebby. Motorists stop their mobile fridges, lean on the horn and stare as if you were an okapi or a loose dugong. You realise the fallacy. What appeared sense is nonsense. And there is no way you could have known! You have yebbed. Other familiar yebbies include waterborne receptions, after-dinner speaking, and most organised sport after the age of 35.

I had a dreadful yebby on Friday. I took a trolley on Liverpool Street station. How important to the true yebby that the notion should seem such good sense. "A trolley," you say. "One of those things with wheels which twist in every direction but the one in which you want to go?"

"Yes."

"One of the two on the whole of Liverpool Street station?"

"That's right."

And that's where yebbliness lies. Of course, you should be able to push your trolley around a concourse. Why not load up with a bag of cut-price trousers? How about a suitcase and a couple of flat cardboard boxes containing French self-assembly plant stands, cunningly packaged so that they project two feet in each direction? A small equipage for a gentleman of leisure off to the rolling arc. But in the rush hour, during a heatwave, on a station undergoing extensive modernisation for the fifth year running, it is utter madness.

"A station for the 21st century," the sign says. A boast or a threat? Commuterage flows onto Liverpool Street station like an outfall onto a British beach: in one direction only. Thanks to the hot weather, fires have broken out along the track, points have swollen like old ladies' ankles, and the pantographs on the locomotives have gone funny. There are delays.

On the station, amid a frenzy of rebuilding that can only be described as Dickensian (endlessly protracted and populated by colourful characters), gathers a vast crowd of hot, hot people.

But some of us stand out against the crowd. Not all of us sweat with the pack. Some of us trundle mobile ankle-slappers against the lower limbs of the pack and apologise a lot instead.

I am not a lemming in a suit. The lemmings have season tickets. I have still to buy my ticket from the ticket office which is just over there, on the other side of that river of humanity oozing this way. Now if I can only get my trolley...

Incubating forward, with the concentration of a jungle explorer, my every shove yielding another casualty. I find myself wondering, "Could this happen to Edward Heath?" (a standard yebby yardstick). What if they turn ugly? Am I doing the wrong thing, and does the whole station resent it. Is this a yebby and am I in it?

Of course, yebby law ensures that the ignominious and humiliating experience lasts an interminably long time. This is because one part of the brain is fully aware of the horrors of the yebby, while the other half is still dwelling on the idea it first thought of. "For heaven's sake!" mutters the recalcitrant lobe. "You're entitled to your trolley. Push on!" "Stop this at once!" whines the embarrassed lobe. "Listen to Mrs Thatcher! Travel on the railways is not something you need."

In the end, I missed the 6pm to Norwich and when I did get a train I had to stand all the way. Isn't there a question in Trivial Pursuits about the speed a bead of sweat takes to trickle down the spine? If there isn't there should be. One foot an hour, I guessed. The same speed as an InterCity train.

At the end of the 20 minutes it took to get through Shenfield, I toyed with the notion of a cool drink. Apparently there was a buffet situated towards the rear. What could be simpler? It must be just along here...

I have reached the unpalatable conclusion that new words are redundant anyway. Who needs these parlour games? With a bit of application, life itself can become one long yebby and that's no fallacism.

Michael Howard urges greater commitment to bring East Europeans into the Community

Thatcher vision in need of deeds

In her much heralded speech at Aspen on Sunday, the prime minister covered a great deal of ground. Drugs, the environment, aid to the Third World, defence and the United Nations all received somewhat perfunctory attention. A new paragraph had to be hurriedly written in, rallying the UN against Saddam Hussein, and her strong leadership on this issue makes one thankful that she is still in the driving seat. But essentially Mrs Thatcher regarded the occasion as an opportunity to state to an American audience her views about Europe; and most welcome they were.

The American setting explains much, including no doubt the reference to Magna Carta: an archaic and ambiguous document that means little to our European partners but has long been an indispensable part of Anglo-Saxon political myth. It is evidence of the persistence of a deep cultural divide that Anglo-Saxons still use the language of "The Good Old Cause" whereas across the Channel, people think in terms of "human rights" as expounded in the French Revolution and established by the Napoleonic Codes.

But as Magna Carta was concerned with limiting the powers of the central government rather than enhancing them, it was an appropriate reference point for the prime minister. "A Europe which rejects central control and its associated bureaucracy" is language of which the barons at Runnymede would thoroughly have approved. Yet when she presents her ideas at the autumn summit on co-operation and security in Europe, Mrs Thatcher should think of a historical analogy more intelligible in Paris, Prague, Warsaw and Rome.

The debate over distribution of power between regions or localities and the centre (whether London or Brussels) is an intrinsic part of the democratic process, and always has been. One can only reiterate that the growing range and complexity of social activity strengthens the need for power at the centre, wherever it may lie, and that we should be trying not to destroy that power but to make it more accountable. That is what the growth of parliamentary institutions has done in this country, and what we should be doing in Europe.

Debate will continue over whether Europe should be a *Staatenbund* or a *Bundesstaat*. What seems apparent from the prime minister's speech, however, is that she has moved far from her original scepticism about the European idea, and is now seriously discussing what kind of Community there ought to be.

This change of approach is justified by the liberation of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. The original concept of the European Community envisaged only the wealthy states of Western Europe. At the time nothing more was necessary or practicable. Since then, adjustments have been made to accommodate the poorer states of southern Europe, but the advent of the new democracies from the East — with economies not so much backward as poisoned by 40 years of communism — presents an entirely new challenge.

These nations are part of the historic European family, and it is only through the Community that Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — and perhaps one day Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania — can be reintegrated into the

world's economic and political system. So we are right to ask whether institutions shaped to serve the needs of a smaller and more homogeneous community are appropriate to deal with the new challenges.

Perhaps only a community with considerable central control, especially of financial resources, will have the power and flexibility to help these East European countries on the right scale. Without careful co-ordination from Brussels, a web of competitive bilateral arrangements could grow up, wasting resources and provoking international rivalry. The advent of our East European neighbours may enhance the need for central power rather than diminish it, and the prime minister must prove the case to the contrary.

Nevertheless, in setting her sights on the enlargement of Europe, Mrs Thatcher deserves our full support. She will certainly be supported in Central and Eastern Europe, where she is already immensely popular. The concept of a *Großeuropä* rather than a *Kleineuropa*, and one in which power is evenly distributed rather than concentrated in the

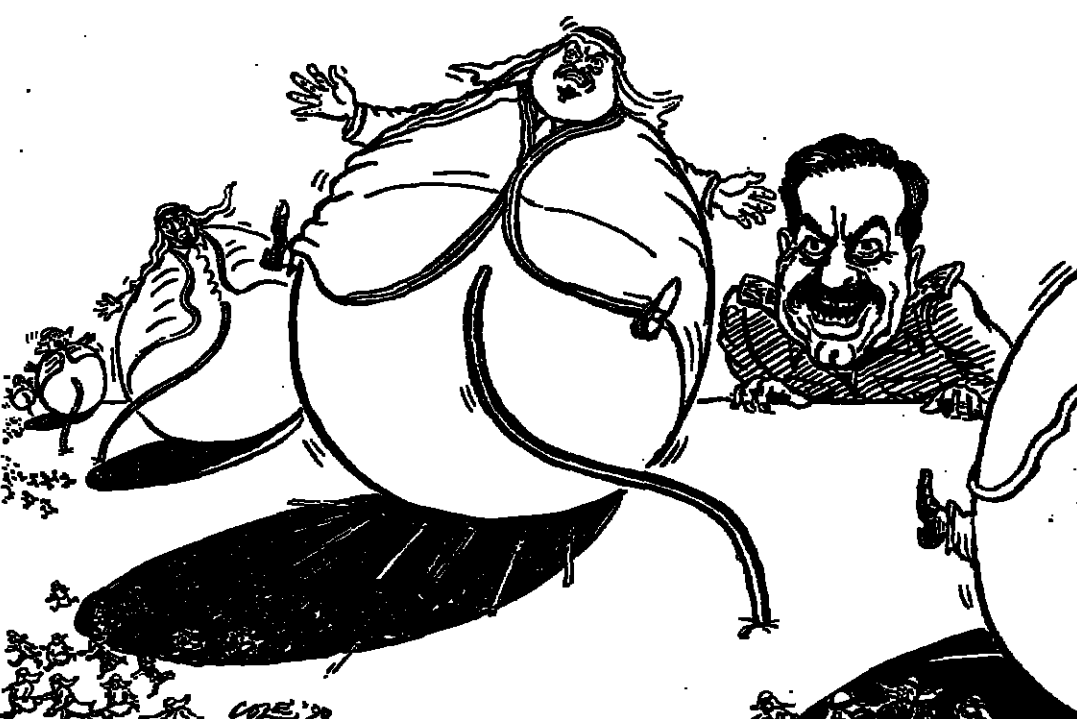
hands of its wealthiest members (whether or not they happen to be Germans) is certainly highly attractive: a great deal more so than the archaic insularity expressed by Nicholas Ridley.

But this needs to be more than a concept. During the first part of the last century, there was wide debate about whether the states of Germany should unite in a *Kleindeutschland* or a *Großdeutschland* under Prussian leadership or Austria. The former solution was adopted, not altogether happily: a little more skill and resolution on the part of Vienna and things might have turned out differently.

If Mrs Thatcher's vision is to be anything more than the verbiage of which her political enemies accuse her, it will demand the wholehearted commitment of the British government to work for it as a full partner in the Community. Let us hope that the Aspen speech shows that Mrs Thatcher is no longer dragging her feet over Europe but striding out boldly in a new and promising direction.

Sir Michael Howard is Robert A. Lovett Professor of Modern History at Yale University.

Eject the Iraqis, then help the Gulf to democracy



Amir Taheri puts the case for those who share western values but are denied a voice by tribal, oil-rich rulers

Whatever the outcome of Iraq's latest attempt at gobbling up Kuwait, the drama of the past few days should focus attention on the fragility of state structures in a region that accounts for nearly half of the world's proven oil reserves.

In the short run, the only proper and strategically wise objective is to wrest Kuwait back from the Iraqi grip and return it to its own people, with or without the ruling family. Given imagination and resolve, this objective is eminently attainable. Despite its million-man army, the Iraqi regime has feet of clay. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in part because he wanted to divert attention from Iraq's internal problems. With \$60 billion debt, it is on the verge of bankruptcy. Even if Kuwait's oil income were added to that of Iraq, he would still not have enough to fulfil his overambitious plans.

The Iraqi army is not entirely devoted to Saddam's mad dream of a Mesopotamian empire. During the past 12 months, hundreds of army and police officers have been purged or murdered. Liberal and nationalist officers at all levels are believed to be waiting to oust him when the time comes. In the north, rebellious Kurds, bloodied but unbowed, are preparing to resume their struggle next winter, when climatic conditions favour guerrilla warfare.

We should aim not only to contain Saddam, but to force him to retreat. The West should overcome its post-colonial inhibitions and realise that there is no shame in helping human rights and democracy wherever possible.

Many in the West have difficulty in understanding the Gulf situation, because they think of the Arab states as European-style national structures operating within a classical balance of power. However, these countries are largely artificial constructs: states but not yet nations. They are forms searching for content.

They were inspired — and some even created — by Britain during the past 150 years. Until now they have felt no real need for support from their own people. Income from oil makes them rich enough not to need the people for taxation revenue. They do not even need them to do the work. In only two

Arab countries in the Gulf — Saudi Arabia and Iraq — are native citizens in a majority. In the other five, foreigners account for between half and two-thirds of the population. In each of these seven states, foreign "guest workers" and other immigrant groups account for between a quarter and four-fifths of the workforce.

The typical Arab state in the Gulf does not even rely on its own people to fight its wars. During the past four decades, British, Iranian, Egyptian and even Cuban forces have fought the various wars in the region on behalf of this or that Arab regime.

Somewhat the existing state structures must be made dependent on the people they are supposed to represent. This means a search for a new legitimacy, which ought to be based on something more than vague tribal claims to the right to rule. Unless the peoples of the region can identify with existing political structures, they have no reason to

risk their lives fighting for them. Even the privileged "natives" (who enjoy the fruits of oil prosperity) regard themselves as unjustly treated by rulers who control the national income and refuse all accountability. Many Gulf peoples try to build their own freedom and security abroad. More than a third of native Kuwaitis have homes in Europe or North America and spend at least part of the year abroad.

The present arrangements in the region worked more or less well until the end of the 1960s, when Britain ended its military presence east of Suez. In the 1970s, the Shah of Iran managed to maintain a precarious balance, and in the 1980s, fear of Khomeinism prevented the Arab structures from falling apart. Now that Iran is too weak to count in the region, the basic flaws in the system are becoming clear.

The oil-rich countries are soft targets, easy to conquer. Numerous time-bombs, such as Iraq's

ambition to annex Kuwait, are ticking away in the region. Virtually all the Arab states have territorial claims and counter-claims that could lead to war.

What are the West's options? A return to the 19th-century system of "protection" is out of the question, being too costly and difficult to sell to western electorates, and the military odds are unfavourable. When Iraq first tried to seize Kuwait in 1961, the then dictator of Baghdad had no more than 75,000 troops at his disposal, and no chemical weapons on superguns.

In the long term, a stable political system must be developed in the region. A crucial element should be the merger of the tiny Arab states into larger units. Unity appeals to the Arabs, so why should Saddam be allowed to pose as the champion of this cause? The members of the Gulf Co-operation Council — Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and

Kuwait — could work out a plan for military and political unification within, say, a decade. More immediately, they could harmonise their defence plans and link up with more moderate Arab states, such as Egypt.

Equally important is the granting of full citizenship to millions of non-natives who have, often for generations, been workers and residents in the Arab states of the Gulf. Within a larger unit, the "natives" would represent a majority of the population, so the fear of being taken over by foreigners would recede.

Democracy must be encouraged, with the people involved in decision-making. Such reforms might spell the end of some of the rulers, but no one need shed tears for them.

Until a decade or so ago, there was, perhaps, no credible base for democracy in the Arab states of the Gulf. Today however, all have strong middle classes, many of them western educated and familiar with modern forms of government. Given a chance they could learn the democratic game.

Kuwait itself was a good example of this until the 1980s, when the ruler, scared by Khomeinism, closed the parliament and converted to autocratic tribal rule. But when protest was mounting in Kuwait last year, there were no Khomeinists around. The *dubai* movement was middle-class, fighting for free elections and multiparty government. The region's political energies are by no means confined to fundamentalists or pseudo-nationalists like Saddam. Given a chance, and supported by the West, the region's middle classes could lead their countries into the political mainstream of the contemporary world.

Kicking Saddam out of Kuwait with his tail between his legs should be just the first step towards creating a new and stable system in the region. The West's long-term goal should be to help forces in the region that share its political and moral values. The future of the Gulf should be seen in political as well as purely military terms.

Amir Taheri is author of *The Cauldron: Middle East Behind the Headlines* (Hutchinson, 1988).

Ashdown to the breach

Saddam Hussein has rushed in where his predecessor, General Abd al-Karim Kassab, feared to tread. But then he has not had Paddy Ashdown to contend with.

In July 1961, only weeks after Kuwait became independent of Britain, Kassab massed troops and tanks on the border in pursuit of Iraq's long-standing claim to Kuwaiti territory — one of the reasons behind Saddam's invasion. The only British troops available to protect the fledgling state were the 600-strong 42 Royal Marine Commando, aboard the aircraft carrier Bulwark in the Indian Ocean. Among them: 20-year-old Second Lieutenant Ashdown, P.

"The only time HMS Bulwark had previously cruised at 30 knots was for an minutes during its commissioning trial, but it maintained that speed for 36 hours all the way to Kuwait," says Ashdown. When 42 Commando went ashore it was in the belief that the Iraqis had invaded and were well dug in. As darkness fell, Ashdown was put in charge of a patrol of six to reconnoitre a ridge overlooking Kuwait town.

"It was my first taste of active service," Ashdown recalls. "We did not find any Iraqis, but as dawn came up we could hear voices in every direction. It was very hairy," thought we were surrounded."

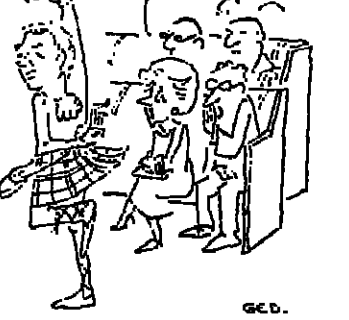
Surrounded they were, but by friendly Kuwaitis. With that instinctive sixth sense that detects

a moneyed stranger in town — this was long before Kuwait became a Mideast-like rich from oil — Kuwaitis had followed them up to sell them food and drink.

From the capital, Ashdown and his fellow marines were sent to the Iraqi border, where for ten days they dug trenches and laid mines. Diplomatic moves were meanwhile going ahead, and the invasion never came. No shots were fired in anger.

The Ashdown deterrent apart, the Iraqis perhaps decided they were no match for the training methods adopted by his commanding officer. Despite the steam-bath temperature, says Ashdown, "he had us all on deck learning Scottish dancing."

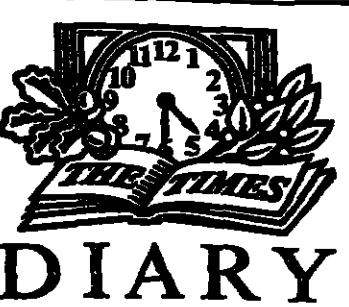
It's a subtle army ploy to divert the enemy



Mac and Mandela

Will someone please pass Nelson Mandela a note as he sits at the negotiating table in Pretoria for another session with F.W. de Klerk today. Tell him Trevor did him proud last night.

The West Indian-born Trevor McDonald, who is presenting *News at Ten* this week, struck up a rapport with the ANC vice-president when Mandela returned in triumph to his Soweto home after being released from prison in February. Mandela's greeting was unusually warm, for when McDonald had earlier filed a series of



reports on the South African political situation, Winnie Mandela was so impressed that she obtained video copies and sent them to her husband. He played them back in the Paarl prison bungalow where he was being held, and was equally impressed.

The two men met again at a private party before the celebratory Wembley concert in April. "I admire him greatly," says McDonald, who is looking forward to another meeting. In the meantime he can glance occasionally at the photograph in the entrance hall of ITN's West End offices. It's of a smiling Mandela shaking hands with his new friend.

All in a day's work

Sir David Steel's demand that Parliament be recalled to debate Kuwait has sent a shiver of apprehension down the spines of the dozens of workmen now carrying out a multi-million pound refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster. In the absence of peers and MPs, they have been ripping up floorboards, stripping walls and steam-cleaning the

kitchens.

Labour MP Stan Orme, chairman of the Commons committee supervising the work, says: "We would cope in an emergency. Facilities would be limited but we would ensure the place could function for a couple of days." In addition to interrupting the work, hundreds of staff would have to be called back from their holidays to man the libraries, security points, the Commons chamber and offices.

Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the Commons catering com-

mittee, has already contacted the heads of the refreshment department. "There would be many mouths to feed, and you cannot give them bread and water," he says. "We are all geared up. We would not let the side down."

Out of the blue

The Economist Intelligence Unit, which prides itself on the precision of its political forecasting, slipped up over the invasion of Kuwait. An advertisement in this week's *Economist* for a forthcoming EIU report reads: "Kuwait in the 1990s: A society under siege." It goes on: "The report examines the prospects for this emirate surrounded by powerful and predatory neighbours and caught up in an internal siege..."

Conflicting opinions abound about the invasion. "We inserted the advertisement in advance and could not have taken it out," says an EIU spokesman. "The Economist thinks otherwise: 'We can alter copy right up to the deadline. It must have just slipped through the net.' So is the £130 report already out of date?"

Whether or not it moderates the greenhouse effect, neighbours of piggies will be going down a treat in rural Ireland. Called *Deodorise*, and containing the juice of the South American yucca plant, it significantly reduces flatulence and the amount of ammonia that pigs emit, giving a sty an almost fragrant aroma. "I am now working on a joint research project to see if it reduces flatulence in dogs," says Dr Pierre Lyons, the inventor. "This is a serious problem for dog-lovers who live in flats."

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Pakistan the likely will use Miss Bh been ins until new colleague Zulfiqar the man Zia ul-h Oxford-e Cambrid the tool, The events w assembly wishes: a governm observed survived the press wait to occupied may be c the trou both of i Were i (PPP) as (now pre a chance than thous and her reme are still

What? Saddam and r massac pointing account carrier natural the ult conque voice o The Saddam cartoon the wo a latte parallel his poi human fool, o country conduct madman Saddam traditio die East world t Iraq wa it dismi Kurds a to atter capture seemed Arzbai did not Cyprus Tanzan The t totality that co econom this tha mind declared on his p price fr this by v be depe dire the have da than a n Saddam notice o to be i cornerin product reserves world's sure. Ira of this behavior saying th actions. Yet the Saddam Israeli, w He has r on the be from the Bahrain stands a sheikha nationalis for use o Saddam part of freedom transac Quite a covering Britain a an over aggress world ha it, then a Until national stifled. I of the U member



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

UNITING FOR PEACE

What should the world do about President Saddam Hussein of Iraq: really do, not just talk and rattle expensive sabres? What is the massed weaponry of global policing now pointing at the Gulf — from frozen bank accounts to targeted pipelines to American carrier fleets — meant to achieve? After the natural horror with which the world greeted the ultimate political offence, the unprovoked conquest of a sovereign state, where does the voice of peace and reason lead?

The world may find it convenient to portray Saddam Hussein as a homicidal madman, to cartoon him as Hitler or Genghis Khan, just as the world chose last week to portray Kuwait as a latter-day "poor little Belgium". Such parallels are dangerous. Saddam may conduct his politics with no regard for the codes of human decency. That does not make him a fool, or an incautious calculator of his country's strengths and weaknesses. His conduct of the Iran-Iraq war was not that of a madman.

Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was in the long tradition of economic imperialism. The Middle East has seen worse outrages. The outside world took no interest in the appalling Iraq-Iraq war, or in Syria's operations in Lebanon. It dismissed Saddam's own actions against the Kurds as "internal". Sending in ground forces to attempt, probably unsuccessfully, to recapture Kuwait for the emir would have seemed a bizarre intervention in a conflict of Arabia's undemocratic warlords. The world did not intervene in Turkey's invasion of Cyprus or South Africa's of Angola or Tanzania's of Uganda.

The horror of Kuwait lies not so much in the totality of the conquest as in the implication of that conquest for a dozen states in an economically crucial region of the world. It was this that concentrated the world's collective mind over the past weekend. Saddam's declared intention was merely to serve notice on his neighbours that he wished a bigger say in price fixing for oil. He might have achieved this by waving his weapons at the emir, if need be deposing him and returning home tossing dire threats over his shoulder. The world might have damned him, but administered no more than a rap over the knuckles.

Saddam has not done this. He has served notice on the entire Middle East that he means to be its emperor. He appears intent on cornering the market for a quarter of world oil production and 75 per cent of known oil reserves. A full 85 per cent of the industrialised world's fuel comes from this region. To be sure, Iraq has no interest in stopping the flow of this resource, but Saddam's egomaniacal behaviour justifies President George Bush in saying that a "vital interest" is at stake in Iraq's actions.

Yet this is more than a matter of economics. Saddam has threatened his most hated enemy, Israel, with the most odious chemical weapons. He has massed up to 100,000 troops and tanks on the border with Saudi Arabia, just 200 miles from the chief Saudi oilfields. He has ordered Bahrain to expel American warplanes and stands glowering over the other powerless sheikhdoms of the Gulf. He is gathering foreign nationals from Kuwait to Baghdad apparently for use as hostages against sanctions.

Saddam Hussein constitutes a menace to his part of the globe and to the sovereignty and freedom of other states within it. The conflict transcends a dispute between two neighbours. Quite apart from the network of alliances covering the region — including between Britain and the Gulf emirates — there must be an overriding international concern that such aggression should not triumph. If the rest of the world has both the will and the means to resist it, then resistance should be employed.

Until recently, virtually all concerted international action to forestall aggression was stifled. The Russians would not wear article 43 of the United Nations charter, under which members agree to make available to the

Security Council "armed forces, assistance and facilities including rights of passage" to preserve world peace. The best the world could do was to send a few policemen, as in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon, or leave the dirty work to the superpowers. The UN put its muscle to the test only once, in Korea, and has never tried since. The dreams of the framers of the charter remained dreams.

On December 7, 1988, President Mikhail Gorbachev told the UN that the Soviet Union would now acknowledge article 43 and "enter into agreements" accordingly. This step was regarded at the time as a valuable gesture, but as little more, with the Warsaw Pact still in place and the world still fixed in its postwar balance of power. The decomposition of this balance of power has meant that article 43 could be activated in full; hence the frantic diplomacy of the past three days, stretching across the globe from Aspen to Irkutsk. The purpose of this diplomacy is to formulate sanctions — a word that must always embrace the implied use of force — in which all the world's power blocs can participate and which might bring Saddam to book.

A sanction must have an objective realisable in the worst outcome. The objective in this case is to contain Saddam's further ambitions in the Middle East and, if possible, to drive him off his existing conquest. The former is the overriding concern of the international community, the latter is primarily of regional importance and depends on the willingness of other regional leaders to make it happen.

The containment of Saddam poses a number of difficulties, none of them insuperable. True, a country in a state of war can survive extreme privations. Saddam can probably secure a leakage of food and other supplies across his long borders, especially while his neighbours live in a state of uncertainty over his next move. As long as Turkey and Saudi Arabia are at risk from Iraqi conventional and chemical weapons, they will be rightly afraid.

Eliminating that fear is thus the crucial task of any United Nations action. It must be built in the first instance on the deployment of American ships but, later, of a collective international force. Both Britain and France have warships in the Gulf. The Russians have bases in east Africa and ships in the Indian Ocean. Iraq's installations are vulnerable to special force operations.

The purpose of such sanctions is to place an embargo on all trade with Iraq by means of the closure of the Turkish frontier, the blockading of the Gulf and the reinforcement of the Saudi army with air power from bases in the eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf. Such a blockade is implied by declarations of the United Nations and is in full accord with the UN's articles. The purpose is to compel Saddam to acknowledge the integrity of his borders with his neighbours, to release his foreign nationals and, ultimately, to submit his quarrel with Kuwait to regional mediation. This mediation, first offered by Egypt and now by Jordan, is the only sensible way of meeting the post-containment objective of the UN sanctions. There is no reason why Saddam should not accede to it forthwith, if his intentions are really as pacific as he maintains.

Such intervention may be the last thing other Arab states would welcome. It reasserts the intrusion from which most Arabs spent a quarter century breaking free. Yet most Middle East states are clearly terrified by the forces unleashed, first by the Iranian mullahs and now by an equal and opposite fanaticism, that of Baathist Iraq. The intervention is not that of Western imperialism. It is clearly in the interest of regional prosperity and stability. Not since Korea has the United Nations had both the will to assert the values of national integrity for which it was set up and the means to do so. This is the first great challenge of the post-Cold War era, a chance for a newly united world to resist aggression by the collective threat of force properly applied.

PAKISTAN DROPS THE PILOT

The first lady of Islam has gone. The wistful dream of a democratic, humanitarian Pakistan was interrupted yesterday with Benazir Bhutto's abrupt dismissal as the Muslim world's first female prime minister. Whatever her faults, whatever her illusions, Miss Bhutto was and remains Pakistan's best hope of an outward and forward-looking future. Under her fallible but brave and decent guidance, Pakistan might have hoped in time to attain the position of moral leadership among Islamic countries to which the country's size and strength entitle it to aspire.

Pakistanis must now reconcile themselves to the likelihood that the caretaker government will use force to "restore order". An enemy of Miss Bhutto's, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has been installed in office by presidential decree until new elections in October. Mr Jatoi was a colleague of his present rival's father, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and refused to serve under the man who executed him, the late dictator Zia ul-Haq. Now that he has ousted the Oxford-educated daughter of his hero, the Cambridge-educated Mr Jatoi will find himself the tool, not of Bhutto's heirs, but of Zia's.

The most sinister aspect of yesterday's events was the fact that the outgoing national assembly was given no chance to express its wishes: a vote of no-confidence in the Bhutto government had been due tomorrow. Many observers believe Miss Bhutto would have survived that division, which may explain why she waited to find out. Army units yesterday occupied all the communications centres, and may be expected to impose a severe régime on the troubled province of Sind, the homeland both of the Bhutto family and of Mr Jatoi.

Were Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) assured of fair treatment in the coming general election, this valiant young woman (now pregnant for the third time) would stand a chance of gaining a more decisive victory than that of 1988. Sympathy for the uncensored and possibly unconstitutional manner of her removal will run high. If she and her party are still at liberty by October, she could yet

make a comeback more remarkable even than her return in 1986 after a decade's exile.

The state apparatus will undoubtedly be thrown into the scales against her. There is a good chance that the October elections will not be fair, assuming that they take place at all. The army, under Zia's successor General Mirza Aslam Beg, had lost patience with Miss Bhutto — otherwise the president would not have dared to dismiss the government and dissolve parliament. Since the army apparently considers Mr Jatoi preferable to Miss Bhutto, the dice are loaded against the lady.

Much will be heard in coming days of the charges against Miss Bhutto. There will be accusations that her government was riddled with corruption; that her husband, Asif Zardari, was a playboy, a scoundrel, or both; that she was too beholden to her Sindhi countrymen to stomach the repressive measures needed there; that instead of forcing concessions from India in the Kashmir dispute, she sent mangoes to Delhi, the equivalent of an olive branch.

While the first, at least, of these charges may be justified, her resistance to the army over Sind and Kashmir is in her favour. Taken together, they do not justify Mr Ishtiaq Khan's pre-emption of democracy, still less any attempt by the military to prevent her return to power. The most serious charge — that she failed to eliminate lawlessness in Sind — could also have been levelled at her predecessors. The truth is that she deployed large military forces there, but rightly refused to allow soldiers to usurp the functions of the civil authorities.

However angry Miss Bhutto may now feel at her shabby treatment by Pakistan's patriarchal elite, she must resist the temptation to provoke civil disorder in revenge for her downfall. Riots would give the armed forces precisely the excuse they need to lock up the PPP's leadership. Violence would only lead to the indefinite delay of the coming elections. Miss Bhutto's duty is to prepare with dignity to face her electorate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UK defence lessons from the Gulf

From Field Marshal Lord Bramall

Sir, With the supremely confident and power-hungry Saddam Hussein on the prowl, if not the rampage, on the international scene, can anyone now doubt that we are wise to keep up our sleeve, a nuclear deterrent and also an ability to project, if need be, effective and respected armed forces to those areas which are so vital to our very existence?

Whatever else can or cannot be done, from outside the Arab world, to make Iraq think again and restore some vestige of autonomy to Kuwait, the "name of the game" must now be the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states.

If this requires, as it surely must, some assistance from the United States in a deterrent or, if the worst came to the worst, reactive capacity, can there again be any doubt that the United States would wish for and deserve international and particularly European support, as well as, of course vitally, that from the Arab world? We would then, I believe, feel obliged to become involved if only "over the horizon", as to some extent we already are with our naval forces in the Gulf.

Hence the continuing need for flexibility and mobility in our armed forces, so effectively dem-

onstrated eight years ago in the Falklands, and for these forces to be able to call on the latest technology in ships, aircraft, tanks and artillery, which is not only essential for any credible deterrence, but which indeed we ourselves would encounter from other forces in the area, if deterrence were to fail.

Although central Europe may, for the moment, be a good deal safer place than it appeared a few years back, the world remains inherently dangerous. The unexpected always turns up and you dispense with a reasonable and up-to-date ability to protect, with others, your country's vital interests at your peril, if not in the short term, then a little later when the "chickens come home to roost".

Her Majesty's ministers may feel that the recent, balanced statement on defence indicated that it had learnt the painful lessons of the 20s and 30s; but the point is, has the Treasury? For without adequate funding for our own highly professional defence forces over the next few years, we still cannot face the future with any real confidence.

Yours faithfully,
BRAMALL
House of Lords,
August 6.

Guilt feelings about 'cot death'

From Mr and Mrs T. G. Williams

Sir, Our baby girl died in 1986 aged two months. On March 5, 1986, you published a cathartic "First Person" account of the episode (written within 12 hours of its occurrence) which evoked 40 personal letters, all reflecting the hurt and isolation felt by bereaved mothers.

This stimulated the establishment of our local cot-death support group, through which parents in the same predicament can meet and talk and befriend the newly bereaved, as well as attend seminars addressed by leading experts in the field.

Such experience leads us to dispute any suggestion in Mr Coleridge Smith's letter (July 24) that grief-stricken parents would falsify their all-too-vivid recollection of the circumstances of a cot death: next to grief, the overwhelming emotion is guilt that the cot-death was due to "something I've done", followed by bewilderment and then even anger that "it should happen to us".

All parents thus have a vested interest in contributing to an understanding of cot death, and we think it most unlikely that parents' testimony about sleeping position would be influenced by their perception of prevailing practice. Incidentally, the Coni group (Care of the Next Infant, set up by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths) suggests that small children should sleep

on their sides, bolstered with a pillow in the back, thus getting the best of both worlds.

A major factor in precipitating guilt about cot death is the presence of the police, however trained or discreet, required under the provisions of the Coroner's Act to assess the scene. One day, perhaps, enlightened legislation will abolish this, as it rarely contributes anything that cannot be gleaned from a good paediatric autopsy, which may also provide useful material and information for research into the mechanism of cot death. A dozen infants a year suffering non-accidental deaths seems little justification for a police presence at the scene of over 1,500 cot deaths, and indeed many countries do not require it.

As parents we are willing to confront the possibility that the prone position may contribute to cot death, but we accept that more epidemiological research is required to confirm or refute this. We suspect that we speak for all parents of cot-death infants in wholeheartedly endorsing the research of competent and conscientious professionals such as Dr Peter Fleming (July 27). There is too much at stake to dismiss any line of enquiry that looks promising.

Yours sincerely,
TIM WILLIAMS,
GAIL WILLIAMS,
Burnt Oak, Waltham,
Mr Heathfield, East Sussex,
July 27.

Maude visit to China

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, I was shocked to read the untruths contained in the article by Mr Bernard Levin in the August 2 edition of *The Times* and disturbed by his racist slur about "a Chinaman" and his facial characteristics.

Mr Francis Maude's visit to China was a success for both sides. In the friendly and frank talks each side presented faithfully its own position with dignity while at the same time showing respect for the views of the other. The importance that we attached to Mr Maude's visit is attested to by the fact that both the Chinese Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister met with Mr Maude and had extensive discussions with him.

It is also a sign of the importance we attach to Sino-British relations, not only because we have many interests in common in bi-lateral relations, but also because, as both of us are perma-

nent members of the UN Security Council, we both have responsibilities in working for peace and stability in the world.

It is a matter of course, that being sovereign nations, in addition to having common interests, we naturally would also have some differences. The correct and civilised way to handle those differences would be to talk about them and seek a mutually acceptable solution, while at the same time strengthening our common points. That is exactly what Mr Maude did in visiting China on behalf of Britain — a civilised society with more than 2,000 years of history.

In conclusion, may I quote from the ancient Chinese sage Confucius: "He who respects others wins respect for himself."

Yours sincerely,
JI CHAOZHU,
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China,
49-51 Portland Place, W1,
August 2.

Death of Ian Gow

From Viscount Cranborne

Sir, Why do ministers and politicians persist in calling the IRA campaign of murder "purposeless" and "senseless"? Can anyone doubt that the bombs have undermined the determination of the British Government to defend the Union and that without the IRA there would have been no Anglo-Irish Agreement?

Ian Gow saw this more clearly than anyone and founded the Friends of the Union to help preserve the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I hope those that agreed with him will not allow his cause to die with him. They can help by joining us and supporting us in our work.

Yours faithfully,
CRANBORNE,
Friends of the Union,
PO Box 1261, SW3 4JF,
August 3.

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I disagreed with Ian Gow on almost everything we discussed, but I enjoyed his company enor-

mously and am appalled by the manner of his death.

But one thing worries me. Mrs Thatcher and others have been saying that the IRA must never be allowed to win. Yet every army commander in Northern Ireland in recent years has been saying that militarily the IRA can never be defeated. If both these suppositions are true, one has to ask where do we go from here? Is there no alternative to the next 20 years being a repetition of the last 20?

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Glenfermate,
Enochdhu, Perthshire,
August 1.

From Mr J. R. Ercoyd

Sir, Surely an electronics firm could produce a passive beam that placed underneath a car would detect movement. This device would then trigger a warning light in the car, alerting the driver to check the underside of the vehicle.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. ERCOYD,
Lyvers Ocle,
Ocle Pychard,
Hereford.

Royal bounty

From Mr T. A. Ende

Sir, The Queen is known as the Duke of Lancaster and her family expenses come from the proceeds of the management of the estates of the Duke of Lancaster. In the year 1760, King George III surrendered the management of the crown lands to the Crown Commissioners in return for the Civil List.

The proceeds of the crown lands amounted to £81.5 million in the financial year ended March 31, 1989, less expenditure of £22 million and the sum of £59.5 million was paid into the Consolidated Fund of Taxation.

The Civil List was paid out of the Consolidated Fund and it covers the expenditure of the royal family on its official business only. In the same year it totalled £6,195,200 reduced to £5,795,200 by a contribution from the Queen of £400,000 to cover the expenses of members of her family not covered by the Civil List.

The Prince of Wales is the Duke of Cornwall and he takes his family and official expenses from the management of the estates of the Duchy of Cornwall. He always pays the surplus into the Consolidated Fund.

The taxpayer public is in effect the recipient of an enormous royal bounty each year.

Yours truly,
T. A. ENDE,
3 Langhullen Court,
Adolphus Road,
Finsbury Park, N4,
July 25.

Ethnic harmony

From Mr J. Hunt

Sir, The formation of the Ethnic Harmony Campaign, with its object of the scrapping of the 1976 Race Relations Act and allied legislation (report, early editions, July 25), deserves widespread support.

One pernicious effect of the legislation, as anyone who has to deal with local arts councils will know, is the diversion to purely ethnic projects of funds which should be used for the promotion of arts in general.

A whole bureaucracy has grown up within the councils for no other purpose than to encourage and highlight cultural differences, and I am quite sure many minorities feel that racial differences and animosities are exacerbated rather than healed by these policies.

Here in Birmingham for example, West Midlands Arts seems over-aware of the existence of Asian and African culture, to the exclusion of a number of other quite numerous ethnic minorities within our borders, giving rise to widespread accusations of "favoured-nation treatment".

Population control

From the Roman Catholic Bishop of Aberdeen

Sir, Professor Sir Graham Hills (July 30) regards over-population as the most important issue confronting us, "mankind's threat to itself". The solution which he proposes is not only impractical without an intolerable interference in the lives of men and women worldwide, but is deeply offensive to their dignity.

They have a right to know the situation and the consequences of their free acts. But without the freedom to assume responsibility for their actions there will be no human progress. The only progress, and increasingly the one and only being presented on behalf of mankind, will be in the biotechnological field.

In his encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI quoted his popular predecessor, Pope John XXIII. It applies here: No statement of the problem and no solution to it (namely the problem of birth control and public policy) is acceptable which does violence to man's essential dignity: those who propose such solutions base them on

an utterly materialistic conception of man himself and his life.

Yours sincerely,
F.MARIO CONTI,
Bishop of the House, 156 King's Gate,
Aberdeen.

From Mr J. Lees-Milne

Sir, It is splendid that Professor Hills advocates positive population control, a courageous thing to do in view of the inevitable protests from religious bigots and ethical ostriches. He is of course right in emphasising once again that the indirect cause of nearly all the world's current ills is over-population.

It has already caused spoliation of the earth's surface, elimination of countless animal and plant species, increasing lawlessness and terrorism (the too-many-rats-in-a-cage syndrome), pollution of soil, rivers, oceans, air and the limited ozone on which all living things depend for existence. Over 80 years I have witnessed the sure and not so very slow declension. A few nations are now toying with these appalling problems — but only toying.

Yours,
JAMES LEES-MILNE,
19 Lansdown Crescent,
Bath, Avon.

School sport

From the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir, It is with great regret that I have seen suggestions (report, August 1) that physical education may be dropped from the compulsory curriculum for 14 to 16-year-olds, following, as it does, a spate of selling school sports grounds. This reverses the trend of more than a century in which sport has been an integral part of school activity, in many cases serving a life-long pattern.

It is no exaggeration to say that Britain's enlightened attitude to school sport has been the envy and inspiration of many other countries. If sport is dropped in these crucial years it is less likely ever to be resumed. When I was chairman of the Sports Council we were concerned to work with schools to ensure a variety of opportunities

which would attract the enthusiastic involvement of almost every child. The object of sport at school is enjoyment for all, by the mastery of skills and co-operative effort, not to mention obeying the rules.

But the effect does not end there. The medical profession, faced with evidence of declining fitness in children, is mustering more and more studies which show that sport and exercise in childhood help to reduce the likelihood of heart disease, one of the greatest sources of chronic ill health, and mortality in our society. How ironic that this might be thought the moment to drop physical education from the compulsory curriculum. An own goal?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BANNISTER,
Pembroke College,
Oxford,
August 2.

Single currency

From Mr Ben Patterson, MEP for Kent West (European Democrat)

(Conservative)

Sir, In your report "Tory MEPs press for a single currency", July 20, you say that "British MEPs have rejected the hard ecu plan of John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer".

Though some members may have reservations, a policy statement on Economic and Monetary Union, adopted unanimously by Conservative MEPs on July 10, supports the UK proposal as a preferable alternative to stage two of the Delors plan.

Like the Governor of the Bank of England, who spoke in Strasbourg during the same week, we see dangers in the rapid move from national monetary policies to a single, Community monetary policy, without regard to the degree of

economic convergence. Hence our support for a transitional period, during which the Monetary Fund would develop as an embryo European central bank, and the Community as a whole could "get used to the ecu".

We also believe, however, that a transitional stage two of this kind only makes sense if it is clearly intended to lead to a stage three, i.e., to the "hard ecu" becoming the single currency of the Community. Whether or not a firm date for this event should be fixed in advance is likely to be a key issue at the Inter-Governmental Conference later this year.

Yours faithfully,
BEN PATTERSON (Chairman,
European Democratic Group
working party on EMU),
Elm Hill House,
Hawthurst, Kent,
July 26.

Expertise at the top

From Mr Michael Yates

Sir, You remind us (report, July 30) in the context of a discussion on the propriety or otherwise of ex-ministers taking paid appointments with companies they helped to privatise, that last month the Prime Minister said that it was beneficial to the country that men of experience should be available to industry and commerce on leaving the Government.

Last week, in the context of discussions on the propriety or otherwise of PowerGen's being sold privately to one company rather than by a public shares issue, Mrs Thatcher sang the praises of businessmen as opposed to "politicians who know nothing" (report, July 25).

What is it in resignation or dismissal that transforms an ignorant politician into a man of experience and value to a company? If the entire Cabinet is fired overnight, will all its members suddenly become useful?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL YATES,
4 Sydney Road,
Teddington, Middlesex,
July 30.

From Mr James Buxton

Sir, Mrs Thatcher is reported to have stated among the benefits to the country "... that men of experience should be available to industry and commerce on leaving the Government."

May I make so bold seriously to suggest that this should be the other way round? I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. S. BUXTON,
Cross Lane Place,
Coal Aston, Derbyshire,
July 30.

Suitable dress

From Mr Bill Pollard

Sir, If British businessmen have to seek guidance from the Institute of Directors or the CBI as to whether they should take their coats off (Mr Cripps's letter, August 4), God help British business.

Yours faithfully,
BILL POLLARD,
22 Brunswick Terrace,
Cambridge,
August 4.

Small change

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, As one who left Britain immediately prior to decimation, it was with a feeling of nostalgia that I received 20 shillings for my pound from my bank today — even if they were Austrian ones.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN (Director),
The Christian Doppler Institute
for Medical Science & Technology,
Ignaz-Harrer-Strasse 79,
A-5020 Salzburg, Austria,
August 3.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

August 6: The Queen held a Council at 6.30 pm.

There were present: The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP (Lord President), the Right Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP (Secretary of State for Transport), the Right Hon David Young, MP (Minister for Overseas Development), and the Right Hon Nicholas Scott, MP (Minister of State, Department of Social Security).

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP had an audience of the Queen before the Council.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this evening attended the Royal Yachting Association Council Meeting on board HM YACHT BRITANNIA.

KENSINGTON PALACE
August 6: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, received Mr James Batho and Mr Don Wood of the London and Quadrant Housing Trust.

Birthdays today

Mr Greg Chappell, cricketer, 42; Mr Neil Clarke, former chairman, Johnson Matthey, 56; Sir Maurice Dorman, former Governor General of Malta, 78; Professor H.L. Elvin, former director, London University Institute of Education, 85; Sir Ian Fraser, former chairman, Lazard Brothers, 67; the Right Rev A.A.G. Graham, Bishop of Newcastle, 61; Sir Paul Hawkins, former MP, 78; Mr Kenneth Kendall, broadcaster, 66; Mr Owen Luder, architect, 62; Mr A.G. McCrae, former chairman, British Ports Association, 81; Dame Ella Macgibbon, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 86; Vice-Admiral Sir Hector MacLean, 82; Mr Matthew Paris, former MP, 41; Mr Nick Ross, broadcaster, 43; Mr Alexei Sayle, comedian, 38; Baroness Scott, 77; Mr Philip Snow, author, 75; Mr Walter Swinburn, jockey, 29; Mr Allen Thomas, chairman, J. Walter Thompson, 46; Mr J.A. Young, chairman, Young and Company's Brewery, 69.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Ayrton Paris, physician, Cambridge, 1785; Sir Granville Bantock, composer, London, 1868; Louis Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, Nairobi, Kenya, 1903; Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat, Nobel Peace laureate, 1950, Detroit, 1904.

DEATHS: Robert Blake, parliamentarian and admiral, at sea off Plymouth, 1657; Caroline, queen consort of George IV, London, 1821; Joseph-Marie Jacquard, silk weaver, Chullins, France, 1834; Alexander Blok, Russian poet, 1921; Konstantin Stanislavsky, actor, co-founder of the Moscow Arts Theatre, Moscow, 1938; Sir Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, Nobel laureate, 1913, Calcutta 1941.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. Beardmore-Gray and Miss Y.F. Kidani
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Beardmore-Gray, of Wark, Hexham, and Yuki, daughter of Mr and Mrs Yoshio Kidani, of Winkfield, Berkshire.

Mr S.C. Bowater and Miss M.J. Wagner
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs Frank Bowater, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, and Molly, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Wagner, of Dayton, Ohio.

Dr M. Harries and Miss P.A. Hutchings
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of the Bishop of Oxford, and Dr Jo Harries, and Priscilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Hutchings, of Hartley, Plymouth.

Mr M. Olmi and Miss M. Korzeniowska
The engagement is announced between Marco, only son of Mr and Mrs A. Olmi, of Landsdowne Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill, and Marysia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Korzeniowska, of Welling Street, Dartford, Kent.

Marriages

Mr D.E. Gray and Miss D. Theobald
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 4, at St Nicholas' Church, St Nicholas Lane, Laindon, Essex, between Mr David Edward Gray, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Gray, and Miss Diane Theobald, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Theobald, of Basildon, Essex.

Dr P.J. Murphy and Miss J.C. Oyley
The marriage took place on August 4, 1990, at Christ Church, Clifton, Bristol, of Dr Peter Murphy, younger son of Brigadier and Mrs Desmond Murphy, and Miss Jane Oyley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Oyley.

Runcie seeks state aid for cathedrals

A PLEA for Government aid to save Britain's cathedrals from "falling into a spiral of decay" was made yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

A survey of 21 of the 42 Anglican cathedrals showed at least £70 million must be spent in the next decade on preservation work, Dr Runcie said in a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on behalf of the Church of England and other Christian denominations.

The cost of maintaining the fabric and contents of cathedrals runs to many millions of pounds a year, he said. Private generosity, though still im-

portant, was no longer sufficient. There had been worrying signs of cathedrals finding increased difficulty in raising large sums through appeals.

The Government provided £7 million for work on Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and Nonconformist chapels in 1988-89. Dr Runcie said that state aid should be extended to cathedrals and other religious buildings of similar national significance.

Several cathedrals have recently launched appeals for urgent repair work. Winchester is seeking £7 million, Salisbury £6.5 million and Gloucester £4 million.

OBITUARIES

AUDREY BLACKMAN

Audrey Blackman, potter and sculptor, has died at her home near Oxford at the age of 82. She was born on July 28, 1907.

AUDREY Blackman will be remembered particularly for her sculptures in bronze, dating from the earlier part of her long artistic career, and for the charming ceramic figures which she made in her later years, using original techniques described in her book *Roller Pottery Figures* (1978).

Audrey Babbette Blackman was the daughter of Dr Richard Seligman and his wife Hilda (née McDowell). She was the eldest and the only girl among five children. Her father's Jewish background and her mother's Irish Catholic one seemed an unlikely combination in the early years of the century, but her childhood in Surrey was exceptionally happy, the family home being first near Leatherhead and, later, on Wimbledon Common. Her father, a chemical engineer and metallurgist, founded the Aluminium Plant and Vessel Company and saw it grow to become the multi-national group of companies now called APV-Baker plc. There were strong artistic talents on both sides of the family, and her maternal grandfather, himself a sculptor, had arranged the British sculpture for the Paris Exhibition of 1881. Audrey herself painted from childhood and first experimented with clay modelling in her teens.

Having failed to obtain a place to read history at Oxford, she was sent to study sculpture, initially in Austria at the Kunstgewerbeschule, Graz. Here she also became deeply involved with music and for a while contemplated becoming a professional singer; music remained an inspiration throughout her life, but in the 1920s she returned to sculpturing and studied between 1926 and 1930 at the Goldsmiths' College, London and at Reading University from 1931 to 1935.

She did war work in London through the English-Speaking Union. After hostilities ended, her husband was appointed to the Sibthorpian chair in rural economy at Oxford, with a fellowship at St John's College. Audrey lived on Boar's Hill, overlooking the city, for the rest of her life, as an academic's wife and a practising artist.

She had already begun to find bronze a frustrating medium for her work when a chance visit to the Ashmolean Museum turned her attention to ceramic figures. She went to study ceramic techniques at the Oxford School of Art with Gladys Grimshaw, subsequently evolving her own methods of making rolled figures in porcelain with marbled, inlaid and impressed decoration, using stained glazes in many colours. She exhibited widely in Britain and abroad, including many solo exhibitions. Her work can be seen in various museums which have important ceramic collections. The latest examples were made in a new porcelain clay specially developed for her by the English China Clay Group, which



gave special qualities of translucence. She was a member of the International Academy of Ceramics, and regularly attended its conferences. In Britain, she was a Fellow of the Society of Designer-Craftsmen and its chairman in 1967-70. She also played an important role in the establishment of the Crafts Advisory Committee and was a committee member from 1971 to 1973; this became the Crafts Council in 1979. She also initiated the Federation of British Crafts Societies in 1970.

Audrey Blackman took delight in the beautiful woodland garden which her husband created from derelict land at their Oxford home, after his retirement. For the last 10 years of her life she was a member of the common room at St Cross College, Oxford.

MADHAV PRASAD BIRLA

Madhav Prasad Birla, leading Indian industrialist and philanthropist, died aged 72 in Calcutta on July 30. He was born on July 4, 1918.

MADHAV Prasad Birla contributed substantially towards helping Calcutta's poor. He was one of India's most generous philanthropists, shying away from personal publicity as he contributed hugely to a wide range of causes. As a young man he was greatly influenced by Mahatma Gan-

dhi and Sardar Patel, who became deputy to Jawaharlal Nehru in the first government after independence.

One of the landmarks of Calcutta, the Birla Planetarium, was financed by him. He also built the Belle Vue Clinic, Calcutta's principal nursing home, and established the Bombay Hospital, one of the largest in Asia. He set up the M. P. Birla Foundation, under which an education society and medical society were established to help found

educational institutions and medical centres across the country. He was a leading force behind the Birla Institute of Technology and Science at Pilani, Rajasthan.

Birla took over the reins of Birla Jute and Industries Ltd, flagship of the family group, while still in his teens and turned it into a multi-product corporation with interests in cement (with India's second largest cement plant at Satna in Madhya Pradesh), carbide, gas, diversified jute products

and exports. Companies that grew up under his guidance included Universal Cables, Vindhya Telelinks, Hindustan Gum and Chemicals and Birla Odessa, a 100 per cent export-oriented joint venture with the Soviet Union.

Birla's prolonged illness and lack of a direct heir had led to speculation about the future ownership of his group. But a smooth transition is believed to have been worked out within the family, preventing a corporate upheaval.

ROGER HETHERINGTON

Roger le Geyt Hetherington, CBE, past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers and senior partner of Binnie & Partners, died aged 81 on August 1. He was born on December 20, 1908.

ROGER Hetherington studied engineering sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, and after graduating in 1930 he joined the firm of Binnie, Deacon & Gourley, consulting engineers, as a pupil. In 1937 he went to Burma and was resident engineer in charge of the construction of the Gyobya dam for the water supply to Rangoon. This was no easy task as the dam was sited in virgin jungle where malaria was particularly bad. He returned by air in 1940 on the last Imperial Airways flight arriving in England at the time of Dunkirk. Hetherington was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1940 and appointed OBE for distinguished service in the Burma operations between November 1944 and February 1945.

After the war he rejoined Binnie & Partners and was made a partner of the firm in 1947. He was responsible for major water schemes for Coventry, Eastbourne, Liverpool, Staffordshire Poteries Water Board, Bristol Water Company, and the Great Ouse River Authority as well as for water projects in Brunei and Nigeria. He was one of the three consultants appointed to advise Manchester on means of getting a further supply of water from the Lake District after Manchester's previous proposals had been rejected by the House of Lords.

In 1969 he was appointed a

member of the government's Central Advisory Water Commission which supported proposals for the development of the Water Authorities under the 1973 Water Act. He was elected president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1972, following the tradition set by his father, Sir Roger Gaskell Hetherington. He became senior partner of Binnie & Partners in 1973.

He had previously served a number of years on the ICE council and saw that civil engineers must broaden their interests beyond their profession if they wished to have influence. He translated this vision into practical action by promoting higher quality education for engineers, emphasising the need for them to understand the environmental and social aspects of civil engineering, and to learn management skills. He was former fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering. He was advanced to CBE in 1974.

He married, in 1945, Katharine Elise Dawson and leaves her and a daughter.



ROLAND de MARGERIE

Frank Giles writes:

ROLAND de Margerie (obituary, July 21) was not only a practitioner of French diplomacy at its brilliant best. He was also a man in whom the intellectual equipment of a polymath was complemented by a natural simplicity of taste and a lively sense of humour. These qualities, together with his gift for friendship, made him a prized companion. I will always remember, and be thankful for, his kindness to me, when, as *The Times* correspondent in Paris in the Fifties, I had a standing invitation to dip into his stores of wisdom and world affairs.

Some of his many English friends were dismayed by his decision, after the fall of France in 1940, not to become part of Free France, but instead to serve the diplomatic interests of the Vichy

regime. This was before I knew him, but I think that Roland was motivated by his upbringing and training. Raised in the traditions of the senior French civil service — his father had been ambassador in Berlin — it must have seemed to him, in the cruel dilemma which faced so many Frenchmen that terrible summer, that the line of loyalty lay through the established French government rather than the lonely claims of General de Gaulle and his glorious rebellion. Roland's abilities would obviously have been of great value to that infant cause. That he chose to withhold them was a reason for regret, not grounds for lasting criticism. The general himself, with his habitual sense of realism, admitted this when, after his return to power in 1958, he appointed de Margerie to the key post of ambassador to Bonn.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev William M. C. Benfield, Rector, Felmingham, Colby with Barningham, and Turrington and Suffield, diocese of Norwich: to be Priest-in-charge, St Remigius, Roydon, Essex, diocese.

The Rev Robert Dixon, Curate, All Hallows by the Tower, diocese of London: to be Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Southwark, diocese of Durham.

The Rev Montague E. Ellison, Honorary Curate, Freshwater with Wickhampton, Halvergate, Tunstall, Beighton and Moulton, diocese of Norwich: to be Assistant curate, Gaywood, Bawsey and Mintlyn.

The Rev Christopher J. Heber, Priest, diocese of Peterborough, to be Industrial Chaplain in the North Humberside Industrial Chaplaincy, diocese of York.

The Rev Anne Hibbert, Deacon, Leicester Holy Trinity, diocese of Leicester: to be Evangelism Co-ordinator and Adviser, Church Pastoral Aid Society.

The Rev John A. Lines, Assistant Priest, Market Bosworth with Cadeby, Sutton Cheney and Congersome, diocese of Leicester: to be Assistant Priest, Wigston Magna All Saints and St Wistan, same diocese.

National Trust buys its first land from privatized water company

By JOHN YOUNG

A 320-acre sheep farm with a spectacular view over Snake Pass and Ladybower reservoir in the Peak District National Park, has been acquired by the National Trust from Severn Trent Water Limited. It is the first land to be acquired by the trust from a water company since the industry was privatized and may well point the way to many similar purchases if the companies decide to realize their assets.

The trust is ready to adopt a strongly interventionist policy to protect areas of high landscape value from speculative purchasers, and to ensure continued public access.

Crookhill Farm was originally part of the Chatsworth Estate, owned by the Dukes of Devonshire, and was acquired by the then water board when the Derwent Valley was flooded to create the Ladybower, Derwent and Howden reservoirs. The price has not been disclosed, but it is likely that the trust paid the full market value, estimated at about £1,000 an acre.

The money will come from legacies, the Government-funded Countryside

Commission and the Peak District Appeal, which was launched in 1975 and has funded the acquisition of nearly 4,500 acres, including Kinder Scout, the Snake Pass and Dove Dale.

Considerable concern has been expressed that the privatized water companies would begin selling off the hundreds of thousands of acres they own in upland Britain to developers and purchasers of second homes. But James Turner, the trust's East Midlands regional director, said that he did not think the threat was that severe.

"But clearly quite a lot is going to come on to the market, and I like to think that through our contact with the water companies, we will be among the first to hear about it," Mr Turner said. "We certainly knew about this farm very quickly and acted immediately."

The trust owns 34,000 acres in the Peak District, including about 12 per cent of the national park. That compares with a third of the Lake District, much of which was acquired early this century. "I would not necessarily regard 30 per cent as our target here," Mr Turner said. "Our

approach is to acquire land wherever we regard it as important."

Of the 34,000 acres owned by the trust, 28,000 consist of high moorland. Mr Higley Sugden, president of the appeal, said that the moorland was suffering from pollution, too many visitors and overgrazing. But in areas being regenerated, heather, ryegrass and bilberries were returning and supporting increasing numbers of insects and grouse.

Farmers, despite EC subsidies, were affected by the recession in the industry and often had difficulty in maintaining buildings, stone walls and fences. "When the trust takes over, it can help them financially," Mr Sugden pointed out.

David Wilson, head warden of the trust's High Peak Estate, said that the Peak District was particularly vulnerable because of its proximity to large conurbations, notably Sheffield and Manchester. There was a real chance that Crookhill Farm might have been sold to a wealthy commuter and split up.

The trust would be looking for a tenant but the Derbyshire hill farmer was becoming an increasingly rare species.

Tourism threat to wildlife in Cyprus

Bright lights lead rare turtles astray

By CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT

HAVING survived the age of the dinosaur, sea turtles may yet succumb to the age of the tourist. If the kind of noise, unregulated building construction and easy profit which is afflicting the eastern Mediterranean continues, the survival of one of the world's oldest and most unusual species will be seriously in doubt.

Aware that sea turtles were threatened with extinction, Cyprus's department of fisheries launched a far-sighted project in 1978 to save the species at one of its traditional breeding sites on the desolate west coast of the island, setting up a hatchery station at Lara, near Paphos.

The Lara Turtle Project, which has received help from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, is the only scheme of its kind in the Mediterranean. At Lara two species of Mediterranean sea turtle breed regularly, the rare white-bellied Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the more common dark-bellied Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

The Green turtle breeds almost exclusively on the black, surf-swept beaches of Cyprus's west coast, in the Lara area, where there is no established tourism yet. Loggerhead turtles are known to breed on some other beaches in Cyprus, but as privacy at night is essential to the turtles' breeding habits, nesting on the eastern coast of the island has practically ceased as a result of intensive tourist development.

Turtles are curious creatures about which little is known. They are an ancient group of reptiles which, like the marine mammals, dolphins, seals and whales, have reversed their evolution and

every two years from the beginning of June until the middle of August, the hatching period ending in late September. During the breeding season, they lay three to five times every two weeks. Each clutch of about 100 eggs is laid up to three feet deep in a hole dug in the sand in the quiet of the night. Under normal circumstances, the hatchlings emerge from the sand at night some eight weeks later and head directly and infallibly towards the sea.

The turtles' instinctive urge towards the sea is based on their attraction to the light reflected off the water. This instinct can, however, be the downfall of the turtles as hatchlings are attracted to the brightest light near the breeding beach, be it an hotel, café or camping site.

Hatching is predominantly carried out at Lara, by re-burying the eggs in protected fenced-off areas on the beach,

monitored by marine biologists, after it was discovered that hatching in low temperature polystyrene boxes produced predominantly male turtle offspring. After laying, the sea turtle returns to the sea. The hatchling, as adults, return to lay their eggs on the same beaches on which they were hatched 10 to 15 years earlier. This sometimes entails a journey of thousands of miles and tagged turtles from Cyprus have been picked up as far away as Tunisia.

A recent survey carried out by the Cyprus fisheries department on the beaches in the Lara area found three quarters of turtle nests dug up and eaten by foxes, which roam the seashore during the breeding season. Turtles are not traditionally eaten (by humans) in Cyprus but tourism is a great threat to their existence. Occasionally turtles are drowned or killed when caught in fishing nets. The Akamas peninsula in west

Cyprus, where Lara is located, is to become a national park and the British Army, which uses the wild, beautiful area for military exercises, including artillery practice and naval bombardment training, has recently been asked to vacate the area on environmental grounds by the Cyprus government.

Four thousand hatchlings — three quarters of all eggs laid — hatch successfully and are released every year at Lara, three to four times the number that would normally reach the sea if the nests were not protected. But the odds are heavily stacked against sea turtles and only a very small number come back to their native beach to lay their eggs — some 20 out of 4,000.

Raising turtles to larger sizes and releasing them is being experimented with in an effort to cut down on predation and studies have also been undertaken on the sea turtle's nutrition and hygiene.

The constructive clean-up

As the search for methods to purify contaminated land goes on, Mick Hurrell finds a manufacturing company that converts the soil into building blocks

Concern about the potential threat to public health and the environment from industrially contaminated land and adjacent sites has widened as pressure to redevelop the land has increased.

Such land is the legacy of every industrialised nation. In Britain alone, 250,000 acres on 50,000 sites are estimated to be polluted by waste from gasworks, power stations, chemical and processing plants, engineering works, mines and landfill. Potentially lethal contaminants are found on these sites. The common ingredients of a contaminated land cocktail are poisonous heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, arsenic and mercury, oils and tars, including phenols, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), acids, pesticides, cyanide, methane and asbestos.

This international problem is tackled in widely differing ways. Some countries, notably The Netherlands, Sweden, West Germany and the United States, have begun ambitious programmes to solve their contaminated land problems once and for all. They have invested in developing new soil-cleaning technologies and committed billions of pounds to huge clean-up programmes.

Britain largely persists with the cheapest option. The contaminated land is left where it is and covered with a layer of clean soil, or it is excavated and buried in a tip elsewhere.

The aim in The Netherlands and West Germany is to restore soil – a finite and non-renewable resource – to a condition where it can be used for any purpose.

In Britain, the usual policy is to treat contaminated soil just sufficiently for the next intended use. Contamination was ignored, missed or simply forgotten at hundreds, possibly thousands, of formerly derelict sites built on since the second world war. The vast majority of these sites will never cause any health problem whatsoever. But the unthinkable could happen.

In January a report from the House of Commons environment select committee on contaminated

land policy concluded: "We find there has been a lack of policy on contaminated land. We do not wish to be alarmist. Our concern is that by defining contaminated land narrowly and solely in relation to end use, the Department of the Environment may be underestimating a genuine environmental problem."

Dr Stephan Jefferies, of the European Centre for Pollution Research at Queen Mary College, London, echoes this view: "We now have to ask the question whether what we have done is good enough for tomorrow. We should promote clean practices and make today's practitioners profitable because of it."

However, any out-of-sight-out-of-mind policy will have to change with the advent of strict new European Community legislation on hazardous and toxic waste.

Eusebio Murillo Matilla, of the Community's environment directorate in Brussels, says: "Soil has been the poor member of the environmental family until now. Some problems are so extreme that they may take 50 to 100 years to clean up completely." The most important measure from the Community is a directive defining civil liability for "injury" to the environment caused by waste, due to be introduced at the beginning of next year.

The directive will mean unlimited liability on a waste-producer for the life history of that waste and on those in control of contaminated land when damage is caused. Liability will not be passed on like a baton when poisoned land is sold, as is the case in Britain now.

It will also mean that the tipping of contaminated soil will become more expensive as stricter controls are placed on licensed waste tips. Some fear this may increase the already widespread and dangerous practice of illegal dumping in towns and in the countryside.

In addition there is a duty of care on waste-producers in the forthcoming Environmental Protection Act, which is expected to become law later this year, and the government has agreed that a

ALAN WELLS



Debris of industrial society: Britain largely persists with the cheapest cleaning methods. Inset: Keith McNeil and his raw material

formal register of contaminated sites is needed. So the problem is unlikely to spread. However, the huge clean-up task remains.

"The overall effect," says James Cameron, a barrister at the Centre for International Environmental Law at King's College, London, "is that land purchasers will insist on contamination being treated before buying, to avoid potential liability. And anyone who comes up with an effective treatment method at a cost that makes it attractive to developers and public authorities is going to do very well out of it."

Hence the search is on to develop economical once-and-for-all clean-up technology.

Despite all this world-wide research, investment has yet to

produce techniques that can do more than neutralise some of the many different poisoned land contaminants.

Invariably their main drawbacks are the processing cost, the time it takes to complete the treatment, the limited range of contaminants or the soil types to which they are suited. Some can also produce their own polluting by-products.

One possible advance comes from a British company that has developed and patented a

processing plant that it says will recycle any lethally contaminated soil into harmless value-added products as diverse as roof tiles and anti-skid road surfacing.

Dunston Ceramics has combined the glassmaker's art with a unique energy recycling technology and novel thermo-chemistry in a process called Detox.

Keith McNeil, the founder of the company, says the process could give Britain a world lead in clean-up technology.

Mr McNeil, a glass technologist, began designing a low-energy, clean-emission glass furnace on the principle of total recycling six years ago, and he found that contaminated land proved a perfect raw material.

At the moment, the process costs about 50 per cent more than burying the soil in Britain, he says. But he believes that as the cost of dumping increases under the proposed legislation, the economic

equation will look very different. He points to parts of mainland Europe, where dumping waste legally can already cost four times more than the new process.

Many contaminants, such as lead, selenium and arsenic, are commonplace additives in glass manufacture, along with sand, chalk and lime.

The glass by-product can have many uses. In its simplest form it can be used in road-making or aggregate for concrete. With controlled cooling, or annealing, the glass can be made into high-density wear-resistant construction blocks. By further processing, the product range can be extended to refractory cements, cast pipe sections and industrial mouldings and tiles.

Democracy and high technology may prove dangerous for Mongolia's rare animals

Fears for eastern wildlife



Living in a wilderness, yet under threat from impending development: the wild camel (left) and the hulan or wild ass



American oil companies are bidding for rights to prospect for oil in the south and east of the country.

Previous uses of Mongolia's natural resources have not been without problems. Ulan Bator, the capital and largest city, of half a million inhabitants, regularly suffers adverse effects from using coal as its main fuel.

Every winter, the capital's skies are thick with acid smoke from the city's two lignite-burning power stations and the many chimneys of the traditional round felt tents or gers that surround the settlement on all sides. The brown smog sits in the valley for weeks on end because in the dominant central Asian high-pressure system there is little wind to

disperse it. Respiratory ailments and the effects of acid rain are therefore common in Ulan Bator, problems the city's environmental groups hope may be alleviated with western technology.

A trickle of high-tech assistance has started to help Mongolia assess the status of some of its endangered wildlife species.

A project started last winter by Dr George Schaller of Wildlife Conservation International, a New York-based group, is using sophisticated radio-telemetry techniques to monitor threatened Mongolian species.

The vice-president of the Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment (Macne), Mr Tseren-

deleg, says: "Such apparatus has not been available to us before. The project will enable us to learn more about the behaviour and numbers of these species."

Numbers of the two-humped wild Bactrian camel, listed in the World Conservation Union's Red Book of internationally endangered species, have been falling in recent years. Probably only 500, concentrated in the Gobi National Park, are left.

They are shy animals and difficult to study. If disturbed, a pack will gallop great distances. Their decline may be partly explained by the rising level of gun ownership by nomadic herdsmen who make up half of Mongolia's two million population. This is probably the most

important reason behind the decline of other endangered Mongolian species, which include the snow leopard, the Gobi bear and the hulan or wild ass.

The hulan, a snub-nosed creature that canter in a comical way as if its legs were springs, used to roam in large numbers on the eastern steppes. Now the species has disappeared from the region, although it roams the gravel plains of the Gobi.

White-tailed gazelle still migrate across the eastern grasslands, although they, too, have suffered from hunters and severe winters. Numbered in their millions before the second world war, they were destroyed in great numbers to feed the Soviet Red Army.

Today, the whole region is under threat from a scheme to plough up the eastern steppe to grow animal feed and sunflowers to offset expensive cooking oil imports from the West.

Mongolia has earned a poor reputation in conservationist circles for allowing species such as the snow leopard to be shot by rich foreign hunters. Former East European heads of state such as General Tito enjoyed shooting rare wildlife.

But Macne is keen to use Mongolia's natural resources to earn valuable foreign exchange in a way that will not damage the environment.

Last month, Mr Tserendeleg signed a protocol with a new British adventure holiday company, Discover the World, enabling small groups of British tourists to travel through the steppes and mountains, looking at but not destroying Mongolia's natural riches. The only shots the adventure tourists will take will be with their cameras.

NICHOLAS MIDDLETON

Abortion pill success

New birth control methods on the way

The development of an abortion pill, which could be available to women in Britain within two years, has been hailed by family planning experts as possibly the most important advance of its kind since the launch of the oral contraceptive 30 years ago.

Although the French-made RU486 pill is not a contraceptive, and can be used only under strict medical supervision, it offers a new response to unwanted pregnancies, and may be modified in the next few years to prevent pregnancy. As such, it is an example of the urgent search now started for a range of new methods of contraception.

Researchers in Britain, France, Scandinavia and the United States are working on contraceptive injections, implantable capsules and intra-uterine devices, designed to give protection for months and even years.

The work is urgent because of the rising demand for cheap, safe and effective contraceptives in many of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries. According to a recent United Nations report, a billion more people are likely to be born in the 1990s, at the rate of about 250,000 every day.

By the year 2000, the number of women in developing countries using some form of contraceptive must increase to 525 million compared with 326 million, the report says. Family planning budgets in these countries need to be doubled from the present level to about £5.55 billion a year.

The lack of contraception means that an estimated 40 to 60 million induced abortions are taking place every year. The International Planned Parenthood Federation says that about 200,000 women die from consequent complications.

The need for barrier methods of contraception has never been greater because of the spread of Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Among the new forms of contraceptive emerging are long-acting drugs implanted into the body, which slowly release steroids to prevent or inhibit ovulation. The best-known is Norplant, a capsule the size and shape of a matchstick implanted in a woman's upper arm. Developed in Finland, it has been approved for use in 14 countries.

A similar device, a biodegradable pellet the size of a grain of rice, is designed to last for a year, and is now undergoing clinical trials. Improved versions, which could last for two years, are being researched.

By the end of this year, a vaginal ring containing the contraceptive hormone levonorgestrel could be available in Britain. It is undergoing trials at Hammersmith hospital in London.

The ring is placed inside the vagina, where it releases the hormone at a carefully controlled rate for 90 days, after which it is removed and replaced.

A contraceptive that is injected once a month is also going through clinical trials in many countries in a programme supervised by the World Health Organisation. The contraceptive is considered an advance on depo-provera, an injectable contraceptive used by more than ten million women in developing nations, but which has been linked with increased risks of breast cancer.

Dr Mahmoud Fathalla, director of the WHO human reproduction programme, says: "What we now have can only be described as a contraceptive revolution when compared to the methods available 40 years ago."

THOMSON PRENTICE

Computers learning to read

A COMPUTER could soon be reading this story. Optical character-reading technology, which allows computers to recognize and interpret the printed word, is tumbling in price and growing in features it offers.

Hand-held optical character readers (OCRs) can be bought for less than £200 as an add-on to any standard personal computer. They are a development of image scanning technology, but may prove far more useful.

While a scanner creates an electronic photocopy of the image or text being scanned and allows the scanned image to be edited, resized and manipulated, OCR devices take text from the page and place it in a word-processing file so that it can be edited with standard word-processing software later.

Optical character readers may soon be taking notes

This could eventually represent a boon for a wide range of people such as students, business people and data-processing operators. If OCRs can be made to key existing text, human operators can concern themselves with the more creative task of adapting and editing the text.

A perfect example of this would be the student doing research for a thesis. Rather than spending hours at the photocopier and then at the typewriter extracting quotes from books, reports and statistical analysis, the student could simply enter the reference library armed with a

portable computer and a hand-held OCR. The student would "read" the necessary quotes and statistics directly into the computer for later incorporation into a final word-processed document and have more time to spend on crafting the thesis.

The technology is not fool-proof. It operates by storing in the computer's memory the patterns which make up letters and numbers. As the scanner is passed over the document, it interprets each collection of dots as either a letter, number or punctuation mark and then sends that character into a computer file.

If, however, the document being scanned uses an unusual typeface or contains handwritten amendments, the OCR will be unable to interpret those characters. For this reason, anyone using one must check the final document manually – particularly when numbers are involved – against the original.

As long as this is borne in mind the lower-cost OCR systems can be worth a look. They can cost no more than a basic computer printer. Within the next five years it is likely that systems which can recognise handwriting will be available for a similar sum.

GEORGE WHEELWRIGHT

A NEW TYPE of compact disc player, which stores a mix of sound, video, text and graphics and is aimed at home users, is to go on sale before Christmas.

The £700 player, described as the first home "multimedia" system, uses a CD-ROM (compact disc, read only memory), which, unlike ordinary compact discs used to record only music, is also able to store large amounts of information, up to 250,000 pages of typed text or 14 hours of speech-quality sound.

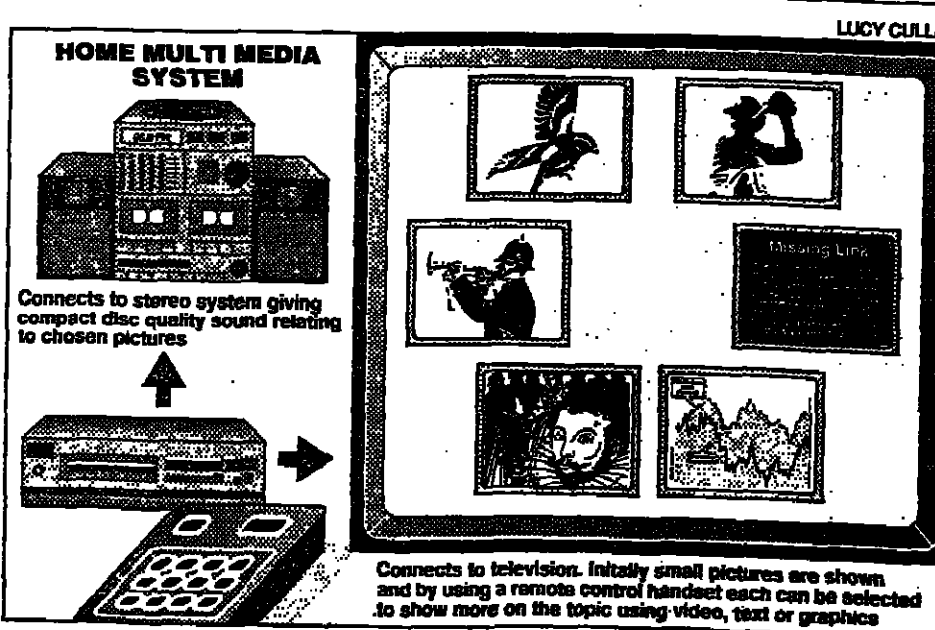
The player looks like a video cassette recorder and is designed to plug into existing television sets and hi-fi systems. It is essentially a home computer with a CD-ROM drive rolled into one box, although it is operated by a remote control handset rather than a keyboard.

The product represents a big gamble by the manufacturers, the computer company Commodore, as nobody knows whether there is a home market for such multimedia products, even those using the now familiar compact disc. One in five UK homes now has a CD player and CDs outsell LP records.

When Philips launched CD Video, a format that combined compact disc quality sound with video, it flopped. Commodore, which hopes the demand will come from customers aged between 24 and 49 with families, believes that the key to the system's

CD player with everything

Enter the machine with sound, video, text and graphics that plugs into existing television and hi-fi sets



success lies in the type and range of discs available to use with it.

The company is promising 100 launch titles, including games, encyclopaedias, atlases and cookery books. CD versions of the Bible, Shakespeare and The Guinness Book of Records are promised later. Disc prices will start from

around £25. Next Technology, a Cambridge computer company, is producing a sampler disc to be included with the player, covering selections on Bach, the rain forests, space travel, Egypt, sport and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The items available are arranged on screen as a set of small pictures. Selections are

made by using the infra-red handset to guide a cursor over the screen and then pressing a button at the appropriate picture. In the Bach section, for example, users can listen to the music, read scores or look up his biography.

In the Victoria & Albert sequence, it is possible to wander about the museum,

stop at an exhibit and find out further details about it. "No body wants to come home after a hard day's work and sit in front of a computer," says Peter Bratt, an executive producer at Next Technology. "But they will if it looks like a video cassette recorder and is simple to use."

However, computer buffs will still be able to link it to a keyboard, a mouse, a floppy disc drive or a modem.

The player will take music compact discs but will not play existing CD-ROM discs. This is not too much of a problem because most existing CD-ROMs are produced for specialist markets such as medical libraries.

But, like the start of many new technologies, a standard has yet to be established. Philips, along with several large Japanese electronics companies, has developed a rival and incompatible format called Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I), to be launched in Europe in 1992.

Commodore calls its version CDTV, standing for Commodore Dynamic Total Vision – if anyone assumed it stood for Compact Disc TV the company would not be unhappy.

If the Commodore system sells, consumers could be involved in a re-run of the video format battle that took place during the early 1980s.

GEORGE COLE

New this week: Sun's "IPC"

At £7,995, Sun's new IPC workstation features: 207Mh disk, 8Mb RAM, 15.8 MIPS SPARC chip and 1152x900 colour display. It runs UNIX with no compromise for DOS users. But that's only half the story.

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The heatwave has been caused by what is known as a 'blocking anti-cyclone'. Bill Burroughs puts it in a global context

The boiling weather in a rut

A perfect example of how the weather in Britain can get stuck in a rut is the recent heatwave. The obvious cause of this summer's burst of heat and sun is a stationary area of high pressure that is interrupting our normal changeable westerly flow of weather.

This type of atmospheric pattern is known as a "blocking anti-cyclone" and it has been closely studied by meteorologists since the late 1940s. For three decades blocking anti-cyclones were regarded principally as a feature of the westerly flow in mid latitudes. In recent years, however, it has become increasingly evident that they are part of much wider global climatic processes.

The basic characteristics of blocking are well defined. Blocking has happened because the circulation of westerly winds has fluctuated between a strong, near-circular pattern and a weaker, meandering form.

The weather is frequently associated with blocking conditions when the upper level westerlies split into two branches, sandwiching a static region of high pressure between them. Typical blocks last for about two weeks, although, as we are now seeing, they can last much longer. In the northern hemisphere their position is influenced by the distribution of the continents and mountain ranges.

They most frequently occur close to the Greenwich meridian and in the eastern Pacific, although Atlantic blocks are approximately twice as common as the Pacific variety. Computer models of the global climate have become increasingly effective in handling blocking anti-cyclones. The standard weather forecasts up to seven days ahead predict their behaviour reasonably well.

This is because over a few days they are sustained by the motion of existing low pressure systems moving round their edges. On a longer time scale, a wide-ranging study of

the extreme winter of 1977 in North America suggested the important factor was the speed of the winds in the upper atmosphere winds.

At a certain critical speed it appeared there was a strong possibility of the flow switching into a meandering pattern. But attempts to use this approach to produce monthly forecasts have proved far less successful.

Clearly, blocking is not simply a matter of modelling the obvious feature of the mid-latitude flow.

The answer to the question may lie in taking proper account of tropical influences. This conclusion is the result of two significant meteorological developments. The first, at the end of 1982, was an important example of what are termed El Nino events, in which a huge area of the tropical Pacific warmed to unprecedented levels. The second was a growing appreciation of the importance of the quasi-cyclic behaviour of tropical weather over periods of about 40 to 50 days.

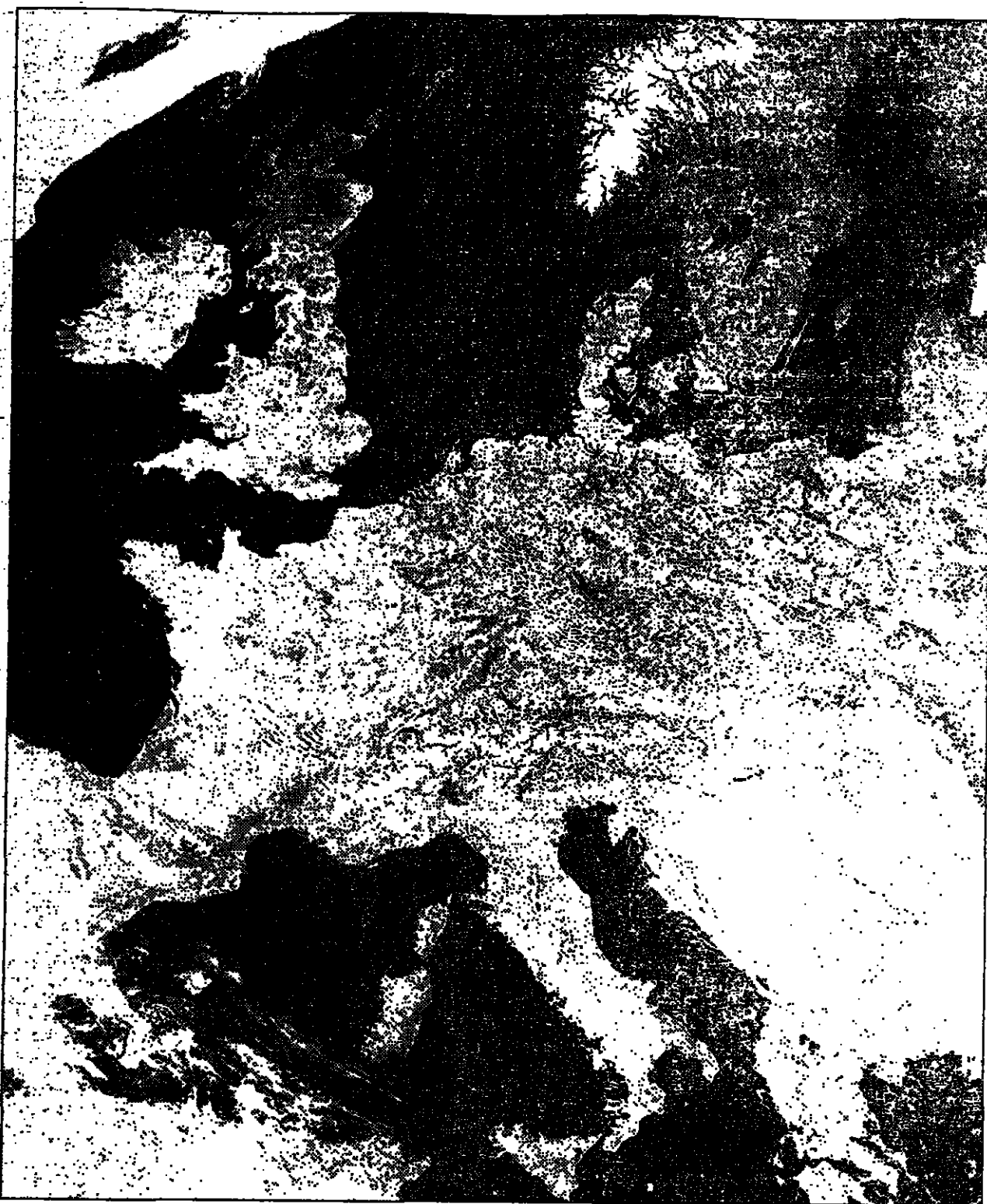
The possibility that El Nino events influenced tropical weather is not a new theory. Because the tropical oceans act as the boiler house of the global atmosphere, the fact that the equatorial Pacific warmed up roughly every three or four years is expected to produce measurable effects elsewhere.

However, attempts to show connections with other weather anomalies were not convincing. What made the 1982-83 event so important was its size. The consequences of this warming brought home to meteorologists the importance of tropical sea surface temperature anomalies in establishing unusual global weather patterns.

During 1982-83 rainfall patterns in the tropics and subtropics were altered and there were extreme droughts in Australia, Indonesia, India, south-eastern Africa and Central America. More important, abnormal circulation patterns at higher

latitudes, including exceptionally cold winter weather in the east of the United States and torrential rain in California convinced many meteorologists that the interaction between the tropics and the rest of the globe played an important part in extreme weather patterns.

The realisation that tropical quasi-cycles are a factor in extra-tropical circulation patterns developed in parallel. These fluctuations were first observed in the upper atmosphere and were reported in 1971. They attracted little attention at the time. Subsequent satellite measurements have shown they are



The satellite says it all: a photograph of Europe taken from space shows the heatwave continent

part of wider patterns. Waves of cloudiness develop every 40-50 days in the Indian Ocean. These intensify and for four to six weeks sweep eastward across the Pacific and peter out before reaching South America.

In the early 1980s these oscillations were found to be influential in a number of other phenomena. Not only might they be implicated in the triggering of El Nino events but also their timing seemed to affect the onset and strength of the monsoon over the Indian sub-continent.

In addition, at times when these oscillations were most

pronounced, there is increased evidence of blocking in mid latitudes. The physical causes of the quasi-periodic fluctuations in both tropical cloudiness and sea surface temperatures in the Pacific are still being debated by scientists.

We cannot predict their progress with any certainty yet, and because they have a time scale of months and years they still have important implications for longer-range weather forecasting.

On the positive side they suggest that, with better understanding of the links between tropical and extra-tropical weather patterns, it may be possible to use the

slowly variable behaviour in the tropics to estimate the chances of having abnormal conditions at higher latitudes such as Britain for weeks or even months.

Such predictions would lack the detail of standard forecasts but might give useful figures for the probability of having extreme spells of weather.

The problem is our imperfect knowledge of what drives the periodic fluctuations in the tropics and how precisely they influence global circulation patterns. However, because all the factors are interconnected it will take many years to unravel the details of these links.

Expensive Big Bang

Scientists are trying to reproduce the conditions at the start of the universe

The most expensive machine ever conceived for research, with which scientists believe they could unlock the secrets of the creation of the universe by reproducing the conditions that existed for a fraction of a second after the Big Bang, has taken a step nearer to becoming a reality.

Even by the standards of defence and space research, the plans to spend more than £4 billion on the largest version of a type of machine called an atom smasher are ambitious.

But the good news for the scientists planning the project, known formally as the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), came last week with the approval of the American government to spend a further £173 million on the development of the machine over the next year. That almost ensures that there will eventually be approval for the whole thing to be built.

The technologies needed to build this extraordinary apparatus are being perfected by a team working with Dr Roy Schwitters, the director of the new SSC laboratory near Dallas, Texas.

Although the supercollider has been described by President Bush as "a concrete manifestation of America's scientific leadership", the venture has its critics in the United States Congress.

While particle physics is recognised as one of the pinnacles of high intellectual endeavour from which it would be unthinkable of the Americans to retreat, there is an argument that intellectual leadership in future will have to be satisfied by sharing some of the costs by international collaboration.

The supercollider is intended to create a sub-atomic fireball, or the conditions that were so hot in the millionth of a second after the Big Bang that neutrons and protons, the basic building blocks of all matter around us, had not yet condensed out of a sea of things called quarks and gluons, which do not exist in nature.

To generate the primordial plasma from which the atoms evolved as we know them, the SSC will use an accelerator in an underground tunnel, 54

miles in circumference, to be built beneath the plains at Waxahachie, south of Dallas.

Enormous energy is needed for the powerful magnets that will hurl two beams of protons in opposite directions, with velocities approaching the speed of light or an energy of 20 trillion electron volts (TeV), until they collide.

After creating the mini-Big Bang, researchers will record the shower of short-lived exotic particles that last for only a few millionths of a second, but that belong to the families grouped as hadrons, leptons, photons and others, like the W and Z particles.

They will provide physicists with a new window on understanding the structure of matter by looking at inner space, thus complementing the observations of the astronomers in looking at outer space.

For 60 years scientists have been building ever larger particle accelerators to explore the fundamental structure of matter: the first ones were shoe-box size. Over this time, they have devised ways of achieving a ten million-fold increase in the energy of their accelerators.

The use of colliding beams has been one of the key recent advances, and the one employed by the giant electron-positron LEP accelerator, which came on stream at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, at Geneva, last August.

High energy is the most important factor in reproducing the critical state to generate particles that do not exist in the natural state but are believed to have existed in the initial fireball from which the universe was born.

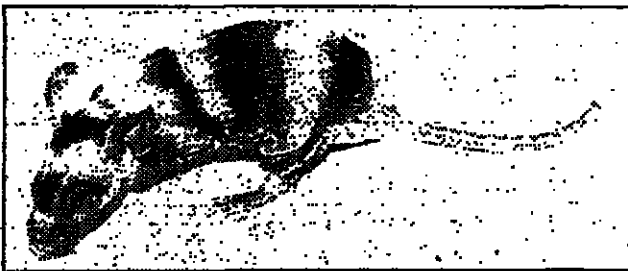
As the infant universe cooled down, those primeval particles disintegrated spontaneously to give rise to the diverse forms of matter we encounter in everyday life.

One of the goals of the SSC will be to hunt for a particle known as the Higgs boson, which has been suggested by Professor Peter Higgs, of Edinburgh University, as necessary to explain how quarks, leptons, W and Z particles and others acquired mass. Confirming the existence of the Higgs particle would not be possible at energies below 40TeV.

PEARCE WRIGHT

The mice in sheep's clothing

How genetic engineering has made laboratory rodents prematurely bald



Stripped off: the mouse with transplanted sheep genes

are made according to the same general plan, with keratin proteins as the main building blocks of their core structures.

Sheep produce several keratins, some of which form the filaments at the heart of the core structure while others act as a kind of molecular scaffold holding the structure together. Dr Rogers and Dr Powell say transgenic mice carrying many copies of the sheep gene, about 250, make large amounts of one particular filament keratin but much

reduced amounts of the scaffold keratins needed for a strong fibre.

The sheep gene is not enough to cause baldness. Mice with only a few copies of the gene produce little sheep keratin without hair loss. If a keratin-composition imbalance is the root cause of baldness in the researchers' transgenic mice, synchrony in follicle activity does little to help. Unlike in sheep and humans, where active "hair-producing" follicles are sprinkled among dormant ones and

continuous refurbishment of the coat occurs, the follicles of mice and other rodents act in concert. Waves of new hair thus grow in regular cycles. At the ends of the cycles, mice are prone to losing their entire coats if their hair for some reason becomes fragile.

Dr Paul Bowden, of Dundee University, says the research holds little promise for curing baldness. There are some human hair disorders in which the same kind of hair-twisting and fragility is seen, but it is not yet known whether these are the human counterparts of the type of baldness induced by sheep genes in the mouse.

The factors causing most types of human baldness are a mystery. As men age their hair usually falls out because the chemical signal that initiates the assembly of new hair fibres inside follicles fails and the follicles themselves then die. The hair cycle is controlled by hormones, growth factors and chemical modulators not yet defined, Dr Bowden says.

DAVID CONCAR
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search Foundation, say there is a 50 per cent improvement in pork chops and a 100 per cent improvement in bacon. Because the final product may cost more to produce, the researchers said, farmers must convince the companies that process the meat and the consumers of the health value of their new pork.

Faster track

A NEW computer system can reduce the time taken to design a new car from 68 months to four years, say British and West German specialists working for Ford. The car company has developed the system with Sony. The system, which has cost £10 million to produce, can build in requirements such as client requests or safety needs. The first cars designed from the project are expected to roll off Ford's production line in the mid-1990s.

In vitro bamboo

SCIENTISTS at a leading

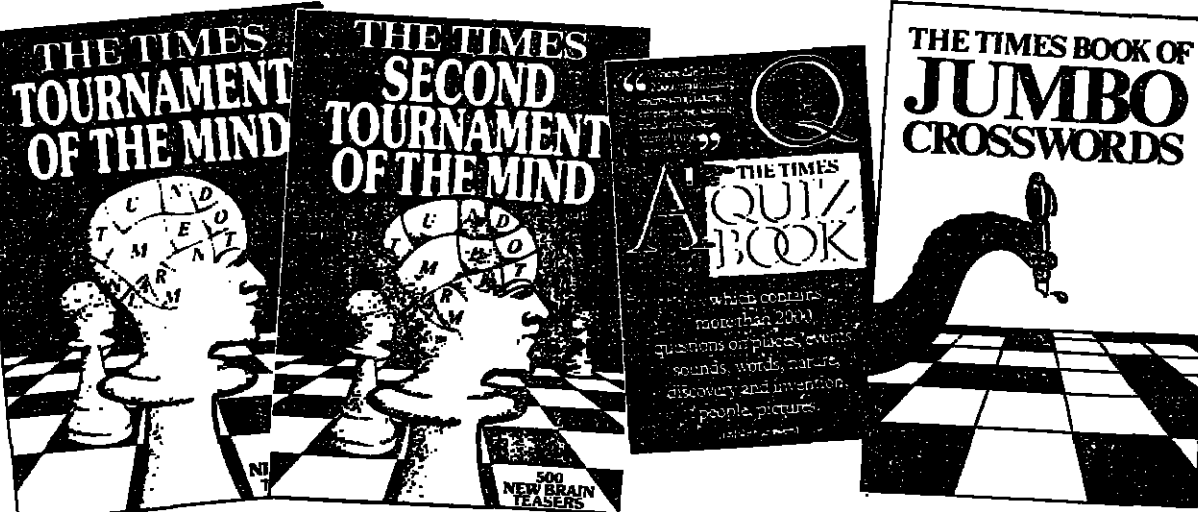
research institute in Taiwan have successfully developed what they say is the world's first "test-tube bamboo". A research team at the Academia Sinica has raised eight species of bamboo in test tubes and then successfully transplanted them to fields. The method is expected to be useful for preserving and improving rare bamboo species.

Hepatitis hope

FOR the first time, researchers have been able to cure patients with chronic hepatitis B, a devastating and often progressively debilitating liver disease. Results from a clinical trial involving 126 patients, which has been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, indicate that interferon alpha-2b, a synthetic version of a naturally occurring immune system hormone, cures 10 per cent of patients and abates the viral infection in an additional 30 per cent.

MATTHEW MAY

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BRIEFING

Star Wars success

AN improved and smaller version of a "Star Wars" projectile has been successfully tested. But the 40lb missile, intended to destroy nuclear weapons in flight, is still considered too heavy. During a 14-second test, at the Edwards Air Force Base in California, the device hovered in a hangar-size building using its thruster rockets to point at a simulated target.

Holding the heat

SOLAR heating systems suffer from the problem that the sun shines most in the summer, when the heat is not needed, and least in the win-

ter, when it is. One alternative may be to try to store the energy for several months in the ground. Researchers from the University of Massachusetts are working on a system for a 12,000-seat sports arena using conventional solar collectors to heat an antifreeze solution that will be pumped through pipes running into a one-acre clay deposit 100ft thick. The pipes heat the clay, which will hold 85 per cent of the energy and in winter will heat water to 140F and be used to heat air in a forced-hot-air system.

Healthier ham

DESIGNER pigs, producing lean pork with less saturated fat, are getting closer. According to American sci-

entists, an unusual diet of whole soybeans, cooked in a special processor known as an extruder, is producing pork with a significantly higher ratio of polyunsaturated to saturated fat. The group, from the University of Illinois and the Harlan Moore Meat Re-

Birth of a high street hit

Liz Smith finds a happy marriage of high fashion appeal and mass-market pricing, and describes the evolution of Number 5002, a boxy, gilt-buttoned best seller

When eight women turned up at a chic charity fashion show and lunch hosted by the designer Valentino at the Savoy earlier this summer wearing the same gilt-buttoned, cream Chanel jacket, it was obvious that, even at just under £1,000 a throw, here was one of fashion's serious best sellers. None of the women need have been over-bothered about a confrontation with a twin, as they all looked different. The appeal of that easy Chanel cardigan style is that it forms the impeccably tailored base for a variety of styles, one jacket serving as the top half of a suit, or as the partner for anything from a simple pair of jeans to the glamorous drift of a short chiffon skirt.

For much the same reason, even as the temperature climbed into the nineties in London and Paris last week, in two key branches of Marks & Spencer (Marble Arch and Boulevard Haussmann), the best seller on the fashion floor was a tweed, cardigan-style jacket, gilt-buttoned, braided and priced at £65. This cut-price variation on such a successful theme is clearly set to also be a winner.

M&S became alert to the trend last autumn. Some eager shoppers found it worth their while to hop on a shuttle from Glasgow to London to buy a particular gilt-buttoned, blue or black bouclé tweed jacket and skirt, made by J&J Fashions for M&S. The store chain, with typical caution, had chosen to limit this new item to its Marble Arch branch. It was evident in the first days of it reaching the sales floor that M&S had a hit on its hands.

Jennifer Rosenberg, the head of J&J and one of British fashion's more powerful tycoons, understands the M&S customer better than most. She began her career pushing a post trolley and pounding a typewriter in the secretarial pool at the M&S headquarters in Baker Street, London, before working her way up through accounts and distribution into the key position of a senior fashion buyer.

In 1974, she switched roles to become a supplier, opening the first of what is now an empire of clothing factories, in the North-East. In her successful translation of high fashion into accessible clothes for the high street customer, Mrs Rosenberg, who in 1986 was the *Vogue* *Citiquot* Businesswoman of the Year, sees nothing incongruous about sitting at her desk in a Valentino suit or an Ungaro dress while she engineers the depth of a pleat in a mass-market skirt, or limits her choice of fabric to bring a jacket out at a price at which she knows it will sell.

One successful formula often gives rise to another. It was no surprise that a summer version of the gilt-buttoned suit in cream, at £65 for the jacket and £30 for the skirt, was another runaway success. M&S, emboldened by the sales figures on what it still saw as trial runs, got together again with J&J to produce another sure-fire winner for the coming season.

This month, a double-breasted jacket in hopsack tweed with generous braid trim and smart gilt buttons arrives in all the major M&S stores around the country, priced at £65. Hanging alongside, for £30, is the matching skirt in a choice of lengths, 24in or 27in. While the bouclé is a wool and acrylic mix instead of the pure wool Linton tweed of a Chanel original, and the cut is a more



Autumn hit: Marks & Spencer's simple jacket and skirt can be dressed up with pearls, chains and jewelled pins

crude, boxier approximation of the scissor-sharp Paris style, you do not need to be a fashion historian to recognise that its details are inspired by the timeless style of Coco Chanel.

M&S, quite correctly, admits only "the couture influence", and calls its new success a "French-style" bouclé suit. Number 5002, as the sales staff will soon learn to call it, is destined to reach 90 major branches of M&S, a clear recognition that a "couture-influenced French style" has mass appeal.

Carole O'Beirne, the senior selector of suits at M&S, was the midwife at the birth of this season's best seller, working

with J&J on the development of the updated style. "It is a natural evolution," she says. "We liked the idea of a double-breasted jacket because of the chance to have double rows of gilt buttons, which always look smart."

"Then we wanted to make sure we found the best-quality bouclé, and picked an easy-care acrylic and wool mixture that performs well. The choice of plain black or brown, rust and black checks allows customers to mix the skirts."

Customers attuned to the chic of the look will play around with the strands of pearls and chains, chain belts and

jewelled pins that dress up this simple style (the belts, brooch and other jewellery shown here are from Butler & Wilson at 20 South Molton Street, London W1, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Princes Square, Glasgow).

M&S is not alone in picking up the trend. Fenwick, in London's Bond Street, has a potential best seller in its new pure wool bouclé, gilt-buttoned jacket by Charles Gray in black, brown or navy, with two flap pockets, which sells for £69. In the same idiom, but up a notch or two in quality and price (£255), is Paul Costelloe's dog-tooth check tweed jacket in pink or purple with black

When breaking in is hard to do ...

Customers have always known that longlife juice containers are hard to open. Now the industry is beginning to think they might be right after all

Longlife fruit juices, which can be kept without refrigeration, have been a boon to shopkeepers and thirsty consumers this summer. In their neat rectangular packs they stack and store easily, and even when open tend to "go off" less quickly than freshly squeezed juices from the chill cabinets, as well as being cheaper.

But try to open them. The manufacturers insist that they are as easy as pie. "Just open one of the flaps, pinch the tip and tear along the perforation," advises Bill Taylor, the information manager for Tetra Pak, the largest producers of this sort of packaging in the world, which supplies Del Monte and most of the large fruit juice companies. (More than 34 billion Tetra Brik, as they are known, were sold globally in 1988.)

Despite the assurances of a spokesman for Del Monte fruit juices that "the research we have done shows that people are generally happy with them after some initial consumer resistance", Brik remains the bane of many breakfast tables. Perhaps some of us do squeeze them in the middle, though Mr Taylor warns against this practice, and maybe we have been guilty of opening both flaps, which apparently destroys the balance and makes the pack "unstable". But the plastic "carton pouters" (by Cammie Products, £1.15 for a two-pack from Safeway and other stockists) which stab into the carton and provide an instant spout have proved relatively more manageable for many. Mr Taylor acknowledges that "a whole fringe industry has sprung up providing things like that and plastic holders that turn the cartons into a jug and spear the top as well. But we hold that the carton is perfectly adequate without such aids."

A report on packaging in this month's *Which?* magazine found longlife juice containers difficult to open, particularly for elderly people and those with stiff fingers. For two panel members the supposedly perforated cartons proved "impossible to open" without resorting to scissors.

Thornton Mustard, the director of The Marketing Clinic and an expert on drink packaging, believes that "people find them very hard to open and generally irritating. But it's easy for manufacturers to become complacent if everybody's in the same boat, using the same type of packaging, even if they're well aware of the problems."

Help may soon be at hand. Tetra Pak is test-marketing, through one of its regular customers (Heads Juices of Manchester, producers of Assis juice), a new "easy opening Tetra Brik Aseptic" package. This incorporates a pull-tab opening device similar to those already used on some small juice cartons with pre-punched straw-holes. Nestlé's Frappé is one product which has been using it successfully in 250ml cartons, Mr Taylor says.

So why has it taken so long to consider introducing the device on the larger cartons?

"It is a very different matter to produce a pull-tab for a small container than for a large one," Mr Taylor explains. "You must remember that the products in these packages and the packaging itself is subjected to heat treatment to ensure that they have no germs, which is what gives them a longer shelf-life (although 75 per cent of the vitamin C is retained after six months). The packaging must be able to stand up to that, and no air must be allowed in, so the whole thing is dependent upon the seal, which must be very strong for a live pack."



A better way? The traditional wrestle (top) may give way to the new pull-tab

In addition to the paper, which comes from Sweden, Mr Taylor says, "and therefore is probably not chlorine-bleached, because they are very environmentally-conscious there", the Tetra Pak Aseptic packs contain several layers of plastic and aluminium foil. "To ensure the integrity of the aseptic seal, the pull-tab is in the form of a plastic and aluminium tear-strip," he says. Two holes are pre-punched so that the juice will pour smoothly, and the tab is then added before the cartons are filled with juice.

"We lease the machinery to our customers, and provide the carton materials," Mr Taylor says. "Whether all-new machinery will be needed for the new packs, or whether existing machinery can be somehow adapted we do not yet know. This is one of the things we are looking at." He could not say whether the use of new technology would be reflected in the price.

Summer will be over by the time the test is completed. But Mr Mustard suspects that "once someone starts using a new and more efficient type of packaging everyone else will rush to do so too - as we have seen with canned drinks. And when you're marketing a generic product like pure fruit juice, one of the few ways to distinguish your product is by the packaging. If there are two cartons of similar juice at similar prices, you'll reach for the one that is more convenient to use."

IT'll drink to that.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Changes in Docklands have forced an overhaul of the London Underground map - but it remains faithful to the famous original, Geraldine Bedell reports

New Tube map runs on strictly classic lines

THE London Underground map is beautiful, and is almost impossible to improve, according to Gert Dumbbar, a former professor of graphic design at the Royal College of Art. But even if not capable of improvement, the map must from time to time be adapted to accommodate new lines; and London Underground has just launched one of the most radical redesigns ever.

The new version, now going up in Tube stations across the capital, wrenches the whole system to the west to make room for additional services in the east. "New lines currently being built or discussed would have created considerable confusion on the existing map; the extension of the Jubilee Line into Docklands would have been possible only with a wiggly line," says David Hughes, London Transport's publicity services manager.

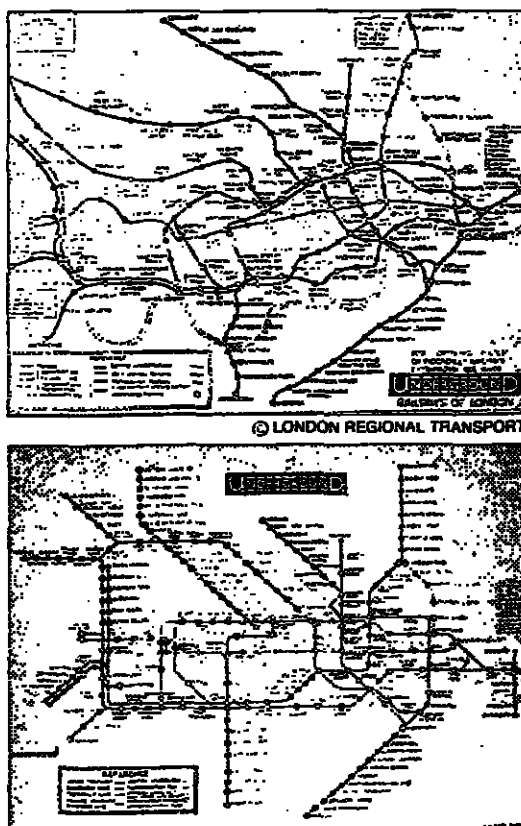
And that would have been unthinkable: a cardinal principle of the map since 1931 has been that Tube lines should be shown only vertically, horizontally, or as 45 degree diagonals. Combined with a decision to ditch scale and geography in favour of clarity, this has earned the map a reputation as one of the great design successes of the 20th century - clear and commonsense, functional and pleasing. The original sketch is kept at the Victoria & Albert

Museum; there is a copy in New York's Museum of Modern Art, and its guiding principle has been used for nearly all of the world's 80 other underground systems.

The latest version of the Journey Planner, as it is officially known, was designed at London Transport by Tim Denuth, with advice from the graphic consultants Herion, Ludlow and Schmitt, thus maintaining a long tradition: none of the map authors has been a formally qualified graphic designer or cartographer. Harry Beck, who submitted the first, unsolicited design in 1931 (the previous design of 1919 showed the system as a string of wiggly, geographically accurate lines), was a 29-year-old engineering draughtsman, who had drawn the map while laid off during an economy drive.

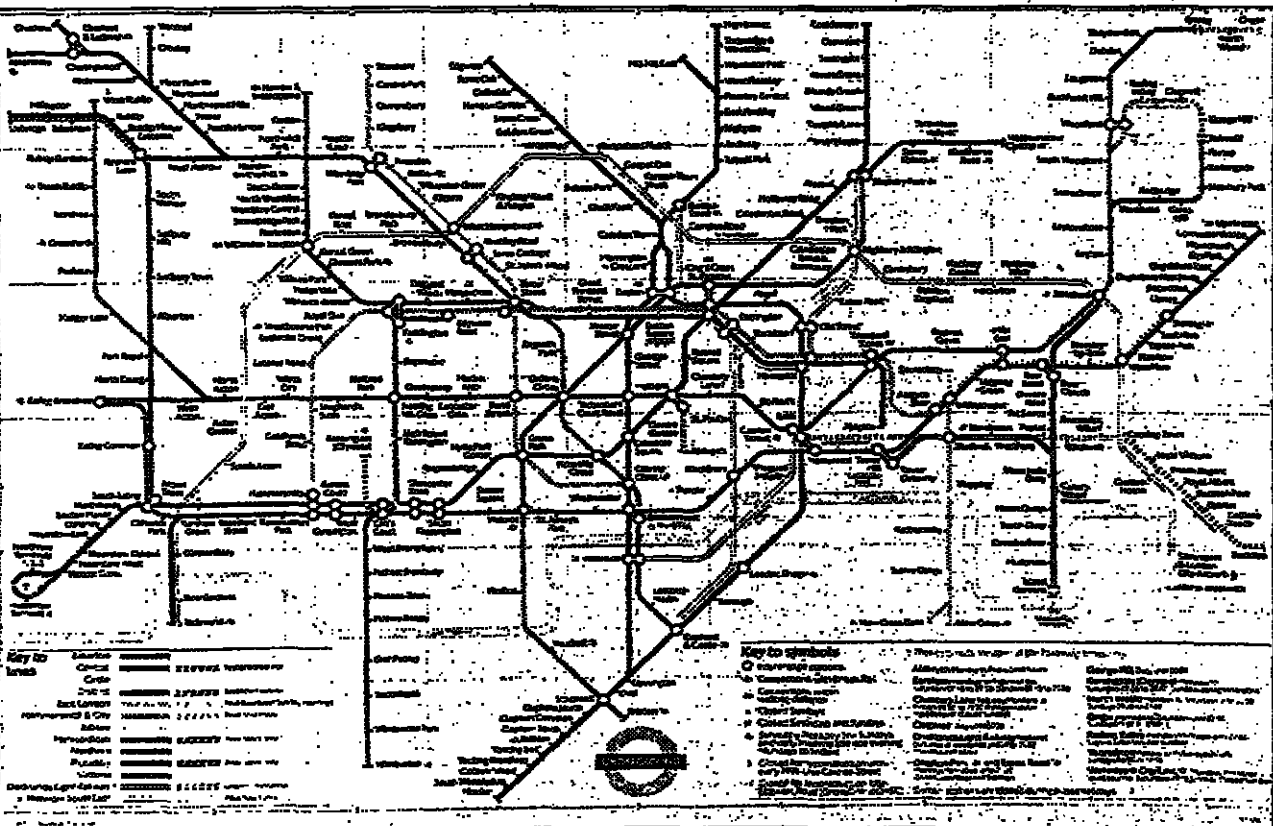
Design historians have discerned the influence of Mondrian in Mr Beck's design, which was published in 1933, but it is much more likely that inspiration came from electrical circuits (Mr Beck subsequently drew a cartoon of the map as a circuit, with electrical puns). All the same, his design was very much in keeping with the philosophy of rational, modern design then being promoted at the London Transport Passenger Board by Frank Pick, its first chief executive.

Mr Pick - often unfairly credited with turning the previous,



messy map into the clever and elegant diagram it is today - had a passion for logical and efficient design, which had already manifested itself in the commissioning of a new London Transport logo. He had also commissioned, from Edward Johnston, a typeface designer, a distinctive new sans-serif typeface, and chosen the architect Charles Holden to design the extension stations to the Central and Piccadilly lines. With posters in cubist and vorticism styles, he gave many passengers their first exposure to modern painting techniques.

When Mr Beck presented his diagrammatic map, however, the London Transport board rejected it as too radical. He tried again; a trial edition of 500 folders was



produced, to an immediately enthusiastic response from the public. The map was reprinted, then adapted for posters, diaries, reference books, guides and postcards. Mr Beck was paid just five guineas for his idea and artwork - on which every character of every word was hand-lettered.

Mr Beck retained the existing colour-coding for different lines, and used the Johnston typeface, but revised his first sketch to jettison the blobs that denoted stations. Instead he eventually used a short line, which had a dramatic impact on the appearance of the diagram; more prominence was given to the names of the stations, and the route line looked less messy.

Although the London Underground map takes great liberties with geography - Mr Beck began from the premise that the central area, inside the Circle Line, would have to be greatly enlarged, and the suburbs correspondingly compressed - it is for many the clearest image available of the capital's geography. At the time, London Transport believed that the increase in travel to the end of the line that they were trying to foster was considerably helped by the map, which made outlying stations seem much closer to the centre.

The latest adaptation makes room for extensions of the Jubilee Line through London Bridge and Canary Wharf to Stratford. It allows for the Docklands Light Railway extension to Beckton in the east and into Bank. There is space for the proposed Chelsea-Hackney route (which will, in practice, serve Wimbledon to Hainault), and the East-West Crossrail (British Rail-size trains which will carry passengers from Essex via Liverpool Street and Paddington, and out to Amersham and Aylesbury).

New stations and interchanges in the east have involved changing the shape of the river, to be more geographically accurate and show the Isle of Dogs. Other changes involve reinstating the North London line (since it connects into the tube system in several places); and changing the colours of the East London (now orange) and Hammermith and City (now salmon pink) lines, both previously magenta, to indicate that they are managed separately from the Metropolitan line. There is still some doubt about how they will show the Chelsea-Hackney route. Line green was thought too confusing; pale green is a possibility, as is a broken line.

The Underground system is highly complex - 250 miles of track, 273 stations, 2.8 million passengers a day - and the new map is more expensive than ever. But London Transport hopes that it retains the commonsensical approach which informed Mr Beck's original design, and will be as useful. "All the latest changes are practical," says Mr Hughes. "We have done nothing to interfere with the justly internationally famous basic design."

REVIEWS

Glitzy women, wine and song

OPERA
Die Csárdásfürstin
Morbisch, Austria

FOR most of the year Morbisch is simply a tiny village on the Austrian/Hungarian frontier. Most of its income is derived from grapes: much of Austria's best red wine comes from around here.

But in July and August the village is transformed. Morbisch has its annual festival. An opera is performed on the floating stage of the lake, and many of the 3,000-strong audience come in by coach from Vienna. Much wine is imbibed; the atmosphere is convivial like a day out in Bognor, except that the music is better.

Morbisch generally looks for the sort of opera which makes visitors unsure whether they are in eastern Austria or western Hungary. No work could fill that demand better than *Die Csárdásfürstin* (The Csárdás Princess), the best work of Emmerich Kálmán. He was born in Hungary, but the *Princess* had its first performance in Vienna. Austro-Hungarian unity was further secured by setting the first act in Budapest and the second in the Austrian capital. On one side of Morbisch's floating stage there is the illuminated skeleton of Budapest's Orpheum Theatre, with a flight of steps that light up, one by one; on the other are the outlines of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna and the Big Wheel in the Prater.



Michael Roeder (left), Sona Ghazarian and Sandor Nemeth in Kálmán's *Die Csárdásfürstin*

The cast, too, is strictly Austro-Hungarian. Sona Ghazarian, who plays the cabaret star, Sylvia Varescu, has spent much of her career at the Vienna State Opera. She lacks a bit of the flamboyance the part needs, but the voice is large and true. Michael Roeder, based in Graz, shows a most polished tenor as Edwini.

Sandor Nemeth, director of the Budapest Opera Theatre, plays Count Boni as a lark stage-door

Johnny; his dancing is top class, his singing more than adequate. Since he also stages the show, his Morbisch debut, he gets a fair slice of the action.

Morbisch could improve its orchestra and its amplification, but it is mighty strong on glitz. Vintage cars whizz around on dry land to mark the date of composition, 1915, and fireworks go off to suggest that there might be hostilities going on somewhere.

But the plot scarcely matters and Nemeth has taken liberties with it here and added in a number or two. And there are powerful moments when Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse reworked *Csárdásfürstin* for Broadway it became *The Riviera Girl*.

Performances continue on Saturdays and Sundays until August 26.

JOHN HIGGINS

THEATRE

The Hour of the Lynx
Traverse, Edinburgh

IN A commendable return to the roots of the theatre, the Traverse has included in its new season two plays by foreign dramatists: Raymond Cousse and Per Olov Enquist. Enquist, whose play, *The Hour of the Lynx*, is receiving its British premiere, is apparently seen in Scandinavia as the inheritor of Strindberg's mantle. Unfortunately, in spite of a stylish production by director Kim Damback, it is difficult to see how such a claim can be justified.

The Hour of the Lynx is, however, a fascinating exploration of the mind of a boy who is a psychopathic killer and arsonist.

His history is unravelled as a flashback by a Lutheran pastor called by a behavioural scientist who despairs when the boy kills the cat he was given as part of an experiment to control him. The play is heavily laden with biblical symbolism and also carries a covert plea for a place for the individual in a scientifically controlled society.

By using an initially unattractive, sex-obsessed murderer to embody at least some of his ideas, Enquist risks alienating his audience and weakening his arguments. This is a perilous tightrope which he does not fully succeed in walking; that it works at all is largely due to Simon Donald's performance as the boy. Deliberately abrasive, and never courted sympathy from the other characters or the audience, Donald fearlessly plays him as severely disturbed, but gives him an integrity which surprises and unsettles. Carol Anne Crawford, as the scientist, makes what she can of an underwritten role, giving it depth and subtlety. Ann Scott Jones, as the pastor, is at times too muted, but even if she cannot quite convince of her spiritual torment, she provides a warm focus for the play, making it involving rather than just intriguing.

Kim Damback's production, played out on Kathy Strachan's set of clinical white floor backed by mirrors, is precise and polished. But Enquist's cool, cerebral drama is far removed from Strindberg's depictions of human savagery and he is content to offer us intellectualism instead of the true stuff of drama: blood and guts.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

PROMS

NYOGB/Bamert
Albert Hall

THE National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain has a reputation both for impeccable musicianship and for the ambitious nature of its programmes. In its Prom on Sunday night, the players showed no sign of slackening on either front, giving a concert that contained not only Strauss's barnstorming *Also Sprach Zarathustra* and Ravel's fierce little Concerto for the Left Hand, but also the first London performance of a testing 40-minute score by Giles Swayne called *Pentecost Music*.

Swayne's work dates from the late 1970s, and although the composer intended it as a conscious exercise in simplification, it is anything but a quiet meditation. The Pentecostal theme gives rise to writing of direct and "charismatic" force, using that word in the strict spiritualistic sense.

Sometimes the music moves in soaring ecstatic phrases, sometimes in agitated, angular leaps. But always it is highly colourful and at its peaks of expression the listener is, in true pen-

costal fashion, caught up in the frenzy.

Obliged on medical grounds to listen to the work on the radio, I was able at a second hearing to appreciate just how well Matthias Bamert shaped the series of eruptions into the single arc of a spiritual discovery. In the Strauss he had a similar task. The brautless energy and commitment of the NYO players produced a fresh, opulent sound, bursting with urgency. What the conductor has to do is to channel that vibrancy of spirit into coherent structures. It was a tribute to his guiding hand that, at the end of *Zarathustra*, the listener did not dwell on the small clutch of prominently muffled notes, but treasured the perfect encapsulation of the Nietzschean vision of the younger Strauss.

In the Ravel Concerto, Bamert encouraged his players to give their phrases spiky rhythms and cutting edges that accentuated the sharp colours of the score. Having swept through his opening *canzona* with aplomb, Joanna MacGregor added her decisive rhythmic and brilliantly articulated decorations to a performance that caught the spirit of Ravel in his brittle, outdoor mood.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RADIO

Hoax
Radio 4

THE absurd anecdote has a noble pedigree on radio, which is its most comfortable home. Not being able to see the raconteur, the listener is free to concentrate on content while monitoring the nuances of delivery, like a daft conversation overheard on a train. Such items are traditionally trotted out by household names in late middle age for the delight of a studio audience which has been primed by laughing gas or - you never can tell - tincture of canabals. (What happens to these audiences after a time recording? How are they, having been so strenuously warmed up, cooled down?)

Whether or not the anecdote happens to be true can be of no moment except to programmers desperate to fill their midsummer

schedules. Hoax (Radio 4, Saturday) hinges entirely on three "true" stories from the lives of celebrities, with the difference that the audience votes on their veracity: one of the three, like a classic paradox in formal logic, is untrue - and we are led to believe that only the mendacious participant is privy to the secret.

The singer Ian Wallace led with a joke about a burglar alarm in a Glasgow (even he says "Glasgow") hotel, and the ensuing reactions of a musically inclined porter. Malt whisky bulked large in this tale, which one would have to be drunk to find funny. The well-known telephone user, Maureen Lipman, then weighed in with a reminiscence about a chance encounter in a genteel Manchester cafe with a turtleneck whose idea of relaxation was to spend his holidays touring northern towns in the firm's van, bellowing through a megaphone that the local water supply was about to be cut off. Very Mancu-

nian, very Anthony Burgess - also, one eventually learned, a total fabrication. John Wells gallantly drew the flak by making his account of National Service in Korea - a drunken private with a silly surname, a drawn sword, artificial-sounding snore - as implausible as possible, and the audience dutifully voted against him.

But if you believe the Wells anecdote, you presumably have to believe all manner of other unlikely tales - for example, that the boxer and ska singer, Prince Buster, once dressed up in his mother's clothes in order to lie in wait for a thug who had assaulted him and whom he subsequently repaid in kind.

The various drabs and drabs rehearsed in *Don't Watch That...* (Radio 1, Saturday) gave context to some of the most vital music of the 1960s, which in those days still had a sense of humour. It certainly needed to. The Jimmy Cliff film, *The Harder They Come*, seems rather to pussyfoot in contrast

with the actualities of everyday life in Kingston, where the music business was run by a gun-toting ex-police officer. Prince Buster noted that his celebrated "Madness" was recorded after he discharged himself from hospital, where he had been treated for a close encounter with a paving stone.

Some further gems of (apparently indisputable) fact: The pop critic, Dave Hill, claimed that the Police's drummer once termed the on-beat of reggae "a paradigm for an alternative universe" ("I don't think I've ever heard anything better than that," quipped Dave); and Desmond Dekker went on record about the troublesome lyrics of "Israelites", whose first line reads: "Get up in the morning, slaving for bread, Sir", with not a mention of baked beans for breakfast. I wonder if he knows that his title was recently traduced in a television commercial as "Me Ears Are Alike!"

MARTIN CROPPER

NEW RELEASES

KILL ME AGAIN (18): Low-key but polished thriller, with Joanna Whalley. Cameo as a small-time cook who gets some Mafia cash and tries to get out of the country. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

SPACED INVADERS (PG): The predictable adventures of little green Martians who land on earth by mistake. Undermanned summer holiday fodder, with Douglas Barr, Royal Dano. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

WILD ORCHID (18): Bizarre, voyeuristic sex drama set in Brazil, with Melody Rose as a perverted millionaire, Jacqueline Bassett as his glibly seduced wife, and Denis O'Hare as the charming, somewhat sinister, director. Zalmay King. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

MEN DON'T LEAVE (18): Artistic tale of a married couple's long and painful emotional and physical separation. Talented on display, but the script is a shallow sentimental exercise. Director: Paul Verhoeven. Screened on the HBB (071-630 3388).

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (PG): A study crowd-pleaser to round off the series with some amusing jokes at the Western's expense. Cannon: Parkway (071-287 7334).

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III (PG): A study crowd-pleaser to round off the series with some amusing jokes at the Western's expense. Cannon: Parkway (071-287 7334).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

doctor drawn to murder; engaging comedy from Alan and Alan. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

CRY-BABY (12): John Wood's breezy, musical-comedy salute to the juvenile delinquents of the 1950s. The material is some way from the real thing. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

DARK ANGEL (18): Horror action. Inhuman with Swedish Rik. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

DICK TRACY (PG): The blockbuster of the year - according to the box office. Warren Beatty, does little to breathe life into the convoluted detective, and the film is a shallow sentimental exercise. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

GREMLINS 2: THE NEW BATCH (12): Rousing sequel to the 1984 hit, about a boy who is a werewolf. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

HUSH-A-BYE BABY (PG): Powerful film from the Danish Film and Video. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Thriller. Given some kick by British director Mike Figgis. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

INTERROGATION (18): Thriller. Given some kick by British director Mike Figgis. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

JOE VERSUS THE VOLCANO (PG): Tom Hanks as a down-on-his-luck man who is a volcano. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

KAMIKAZE HEARTS (18): Raw American independent film, about a love affair between a doctor and a nurse. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

MORTALITY (18): David Freeman's dramatic two-screen epic. A story of a man who is a volcano. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

REMEMBRANCE (PG): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN (PG): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (PG): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL (PG): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

SHADOWLANDS (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

SING AND DANCE (PG): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

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LORD OF THE FLIES (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

MONSIEUR HERE (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

MOON 44 (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

MUSIC BOX (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

PIERROT LE LOU (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

PRETTY WOMAN (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

REUNION (12): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

TE ME UP! THE MEOWDOWN (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

TOTAL RECALL (18): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

THE VANISHING (12): Film by Norman Macdonald. Director: John Dahl. Cannon: Haymarket (071-630 1527).

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We have seen the last of cheap oil

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

When, on the last day of May, I wrote in this column that the scene was set for the next oil price shock, this was not because it appeared even remotely likely that Iraq would invade its rich and generally helpful little neighbour, Kuwait. It was on the basis that there was a black hole appearing in world oil supplies because of the poor and deteriorating state of the Soviet oilfields. Demand for oil is rising at 3 per cent a year, or at least it was until the price went up, and the world has been relying on Opec to lubricate the growth. It was always likely, as I wrote, that Opec would turn down the taps and firm up the price.

The catalyst for the change turned out to be Iraq rather than inadequate Soviet investment in one of its key assets, but the effect is the same and the consequences are likely to be felt to the end of the century.

Economists have run their computers and the immediate consequences of oil at \$25 a barrel have ticked out. It is inflationary, possibly up to 1 per cent in the big oil-importing

countries and half that in the America. It is deflationary, especially to economies such as America's already on the edge of recession. It has implications for interest rates.

Less easy for the computer models to predict is how the West will react. The greater danger to the economies of the Western world is that there will be an escalation of war, that supplies from Saudi Arabia will be interrupted, and even that the west will become directly involved in the conflict. Given the large number of European and American workers in the Gulf states, the need to protect them and the commercial interests of Europe and America, direct military involvement remains a worrying possibility.

The lesser danger is that governments will take fright at the worldwide collapse in share prices triggered by the invasion of Kuwait last week, seek to mitigate the damage to already

weak economies and repeat the mistakes made, most notably by Britain, in the wake of the October 1987 stock market crash.

It is easy to see how ministers could be frightened into activity which might give yet another twist to the inflationary spiral. America is already sitting on the edge of recession. The rise in oil prices will screw down domestic demand in Europe, Japan and America, and could take half a percentage point off real economic growth in the OECD, according to Midland Montagu's Robert Thomas, the impact being greater in Japan and smaller in America.

Nevertheless, as the New York stock exchange circuit-breakers popped and spluttered in the face

of an initial 100-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average, stagflation was staring the Bush administration in the face. The cure for stagnation can be effected only at the expense of inflation, already under pressure from the oil price, and a choice of evils seems impossible to avoid.

For the newly capitalised countries of East Europe, the problems which were already becoming evident in May are inescapable in August. Those economies have had to face the loss of cheap Soviet oil, relying on free market sources to lubricate their staggered towards market economies. Now the market has turned against them, and all the problems they had two months ago have been

doubled. There is no going back, either to command economies or to cheap Soviet oil. Even if Iraq were to turn tail tonight, march back across its border and allow the previous Kuwait government to resume, oil prices would remain substantially higher than they were only weeks ago. In the end, they will reflect the inexorable growth in demand, and the limitations on supply.

It is also equally likely that the other end of the see-saw, share prices, will remain lower than the levels reached this year. The hike in oil prices changes bulls into bears, and economies that looked sound, if unexciting, a week ago are starting to appear weak. It is possibly relevant that the fall in the London market took a while to get going. There was ample opportunity for selling at much higher levels than yesterday at the tail end of last week, after the Iraqi tanks rolled across the economic lawns of Kuwait City. But the major price correction

did not come until after the weekend, which does suggest some thought went into the positioning of equity prices.

The fundamental change in the oil price has its positive side for Britain, but its inflationary effects are likely to be such that entry of this country into the exchange rate mechanism will have to be put back from the provisional timetable which would have had the government signing the dotted line this year. The erm has had difficulty accommodating the peseta because of Spain's high interest rates and inflation, but the introduction of a widely traded currency such as sterling, at present levels of interest rates, might burst the erm apart. Given a controlled exchange rate for sterling, funds would move from the strong but lower yielding currencies such as the franc and the mark into the more rewarding pound.

Markets have yet to take on board that the Iraqi action is likely to set back Britain's erm membership, but when they do, any hopes of short-term recovery will have to be postponed.

TAKING the helm of Shell's British operations with the world possibly in the throes of its third oil shock since the early 1970s is not the ideal recipe for a quiet life. But John Collins, who becomes chairman of Shell UK in October, is relaxed about the prospect. He believes it is far too early yet to take seriously doomsday warnings of the Gulf in flames and industrialised economies of the world covering before the threat of a new inflationary surge.

"There is nothing in the present balance between supply and demand of oil to justify \$30 dollar oil for a long time," he said. "It may be that there is a swift return to relative normality. It will take some time for the picture to become clear."

Collins, a lean and fit 48-year-old, knows all about the excitable nature of the oil market from his previous post as Supply and Market co-ordinator for Shell International. They do tend to over-react, he says.

Top of his in-tray will be the completion of a sizeable programme of refurbishing Shell UK's North Sea oil fields, and the installation of new safety equipment. For the moment, good housekeeping takes priority until the dust settles on the Gulf's uncertainties.

Only if oil prices stabilise at current levels or higher will it be necessary to press the button on new strategies. For Shell and the other integrated oil and gas companies, such a prospect will shift the balance of profitability back to the upstream activities of exploration and production, he says. Ironically both the Shell group and its deadly rival BP are due to report miserable profits on Thursday, due to falling process and stock losses. Average crude prices for the second quarter were perhaps \$3 per barrel below those of the previous years in the \$16-\$17 range.

For other parts of Shell UK's operations, such as petrochemicals, higher crude prices are by no means good news. They mean higher feedstock costs and market resistance to passing them on to



Chairman elect: John Collins of Shell UK

customers. As a high-flyer within Shell, on a fast-track career path, Collins has already sampled the consequences of soaring prices when, in the group's petrochemicals division, he wielded a heavy restructuring axe in the post-Iranian revolution period.

Living with fluctuating prices is all part of an oilman's job. But in strategic terms, Collins is certain that the most important issue for leading energy industry executives is the environment and global warming.

Like a supertanker, the world economy is set on a course which will be difficult to alter. The five-fold increase

of the resulting energy demand mix, Collins points out that according to US Government estimates, cutting emissions of greenhouse gases by 20 per cent over the next 15 years would cost the staggering sum of \$100 billion-\$200 billion each year.

Inevitably, he says, there will have to be a shift to cleaner technology, fuel efficiency and a search for greener products. As providers of services, the oil companies would have an additional role to promote energy saving and efficiency.

Until he takes up his post, Collins is reluctant to discuss the operational changes he may have in mind. In the eyes of his colleagues he has a tough task following in the footsteps of Sir Bob Reid, the new British Rail chairman who is continuing as Shell UK's part-time chairman until October.

But as a tough, experienced product of Shell's on-the-job training scheme, he says he is likely to progress to even greater responsibilities within the group.

Born in Zimbabwe, and educated at Campbell College, Belfast and Reading University, where he read agriculture, Collins first worked in Africa on the technical development of agri-chemicals. For much of his time afterwards, he worked in chemicals in Africa, South America and London and has come to the wider aspects of the group later in his career.

After looking at a possible offer for PowerGen, Collins remains more than ever convinced that he would be more gainfully employed ensuring that Shell UK sticks to its last.

The capital needs of the group's exploration activities and its downstream refining and marketing operations will be considerable in the years to come, he says.

Helping to provide that capital and making sure that operations run efficiently is more than a satisfying task without venturing into high profile ventures such as PowerGen, he says.

John Bell
City Editor

Shell chief takes up the green challenge

JOHN CHAPMAN

BBA's long-running battle

TEMPUS

IS DEFENCE industry exposure going to come back into fashion, post-Kuwait? Possibly, if the interim results presentation at BBA Group, the automotive and aviation components and services company, is anything to go by.

It has a 10 per cent exposure to defence, which it now cannot decide whether to play down because of improving East-West relations or emphasise because of the worsening Gulf situation.

More importantly, BBA is continuing to fight its own long-running battle on the home front, where margins in the automotive components aftermarket show no signs of picking up. Automotive operating profits for the first half were down £7 million to £25 million, reflecting a decline in margins from 9.3 per cent last year to 7.5 per cent.

After two years of downturn, BBA argues that the French and UK aftermarkets "should pick up" in the second half and next year. In theory, maybe, but analysts are beginning to express bafflement at the length of the current downturn, which has exceeded all predictions based on cyclical de-stocking projections.

The UK and French automotive markets aside, the group looks in good shape. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end June were up 14.4 per cent at £46.1 million, although a higher tax charge, caused by ACT problems, means a 4 per cent dip in earnings.

The market is most excited about BBA's moves in the US aviation services market. The planned \$23 million ac-

quisition of airport services group Van Dusen will double the size of BBA's US operations in that market.

The US purchases already mean that the automotive side contributes only 43 per cent of profits, against 56 per cent last year and 72 per cent in 1988. In the medium term, BBA says it is comfortable with the current balance, though longer term, a 75 per cent non-automotive contribution is the target.

With UK car production set to fall by more than 10 per cent in 1990, analysts will have few objections to this strategy. Full-year profit forecasts in the £90 to £95 million range puts BBA on a prospective multiple of eight times earnings. Whether the automotive upturn comes next year or in 1992, the shares should be regarded as a long-term hold.

Michael Rhode further reduces his role by becoming a non-executive director.

He became non executive chairman last September, shortly before the company decided that perhaps capitalising interest on its development programme was not the best of ideas. As a result of the change pre-tax profits for the year to March 1989 have been restated to £2.4 million, against the original figure of £4.1 million.

Despite the warning of substantial losses in April, yesterday's announcement still contained some unpleasant surprises. For instance, the group's residential division made a loss after extraordinary items of £4.3 million.

It has fared little better at commercial development. Having sold two Covent Garden buildings to Hudson Conway in March last year for £11.5 million, it was obliged under the terms of a put option to buy them back in March this year for £13.5 million. Now Finlan is to sell the buildings once more - again to Hudson Conway but this time for £10 million, although a further £1.5 million may become payable if Hudson Conway sells the building. As to the monies raised? They will be used to pay Hudson Conway the outstanding amount it is still owed under the put option.

TDG
TRANSPORT Development Group is hoping more than most that oil prices will subside. The company's fuel bill last year was 14 per cent of

revenue, or £84 million, of which one-third is customer contract based. So in a very competitive market, TDG has to choose its timing as to when to on-pass the cost increases related to the remaining £56 million.

TDG already suffered from difficult trading in the six months to end-June, with pre-tax profits down from £19.8 million to £17.8 million and operating margins on continuing interests slipping from 7.52 per cent to 6.89 per cent.

But for the surprising strength of the sectors of the British economy it serves, TDG might well have performed even worse. The results from Europe were almost £1 million down at £4.75 million, profits from America tumbled from £1.52 million to £379,000. US operations are under review, and Australia (though up) was still patchy.

Group results were dented by £568,000 (£603,000) of above-the-line redundancy charges, and there was a £1.24 million (£1.1 million) extraordinary charge taken below the line for further restructuring costs.

The shares command a modest and increasingly fragile premium on the market, as the interim dividend is merely maintained at 3p, and the outlook for the year depends heavily on there being "no sharp recession" in the British economy.

The oil price factor has seen year-end forecasts clipped from £42 million to £36 million, compared with an actual £41.5 million achieved in 1989, and at 192p, down 12p, on a prospective 11.7 p/e the shares are dear.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Sock Shop plea

From Mr J. Fairchild
Sir, The demise of the Sock Shop has twice been reported in your newspaper. The first report intimated a write-off of some £15 million by the banks and both reports indicated Miss Mirman and her husband would be setting up in business "before Christmas". This may be optimistic, but perhaps you could explain:

1. How is it possible for the two proprietors (major shareholders) to walk away from debts of this magnitude?
2. Why are they not called to account, and made legally responsible for repatriation?
3. What numbers of suppliers have been sunk without trace?

As a joint proprietor in a professional firm, who has the utmost difficulty, particularly with present market conditions, of persuading a bank to provide a decent trading overdraft, and who could not walk away from any business problem, of whatever magnitude, I find the whole situation incomprehensible.

Perhaps we could have a statement from the banks also! Yours faithfully,
J. FAIRCHILD,
63 Meadowbank
Hitchin, Herts.

European Commission should examine Fujitsu bid for ICL

From Mr J. Moorhouse MEP
Sir, The news that one of the Japanese government's champions in the computer race, Fujitsu, is set to buy out Britain's largest computer company, ICL, will cause deep concern in many quarters.

The move brings to mind Fujitsu's offer to buy the Fairchild Semiconductor Company in the US on October 24 1986 which was, however, withdrawn after opposition by the US administration on the grounds that the US was becoming too dependent on the Japanese for critical technology.

Surely we should, at least, ask ourselves whether or not the US stand should be taken as a precedent for Britain and Europe as a whole.

However much it may suit the book of certain vested interests, one should, without doubt, subject this initiative to the most rigorous scrutiny, placing the highest priority on

future long term benefits for the UK and, indeed, for Europe as a whole.

It is, after all, virtually impossible for European businesses to make similar successful bids in Japan's highly protected markets.

It seems highly necessary, therefore, that the European Commission in Brussels should seek the fullest possible information on the proposed takeover by Fujitsu.

The fact that the bid has been made before September 21 1990, when the Commission will impose new rules on large scale mergers, makes it even more imperative that the condition of this deal be scrupulously assessed.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES MOORHOUSE,
MEP and European Democratic Group co-ordinator/
spokesman on external economic relations,
34 Buckingham Palace Road,
SW1.

Estate agents and insurance policies

From Mr R.H. Foster
Sir, I write as a solicitor in private practice. I read with great interest, as did my colleagues, your Comment (July 11) about the Prudential's incursion into estate agency.

Part of the reason for the buying up of estate agencies by insurance companies and building societies was, of course, to sell insurance products to the buyers of houses, which likewise attracts very large commission rates.

Frankly, I find it totally outrageous that an estate agent selling a house on behalf of a vendor, and charging substantial commission, also tries to take a cut from the buyer as well. It is not only immoral but leads to a conflict of interests. There were plenty of stories, at the height of the boom,

of buyers being almost forced to take out an insurance related product from the vendor's estate agent, as a condition of being allowed to purchase the property in question.

It would be very sensible to amend the law so that the vendor's agent can have no truck whatsoever with the purchaser - as solicitors are prohibited from acting for both sides except in special circumstances - and for commission charges to be disclosed which would soon make the public realise the extent to which they are ripped off by insurance products, endowment policies in particular.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT FOSTER,
Winterton Grange,
Near Skipton,
North Yorkshire.

PowerGen sale

From Mrs J.A. Roberts
Sir, So the City was amused at the prospect of Hanson Corporation making a bid for PowerGen, the electricity company (Radio 4, July 27).

Has the City still not understood that corporations come and go leaving the assets vulnerable to predators of all kinds?

To sell PowerGen to any plc, leaves our whole nation vulnerable with unthinkable consequences, and must not be permitted to go ahead. This is not a cause for amusement. Shareholders whatever the guarantees, are rarely consulted before major or indeed most decisions are made, witness us the shareholders (taxpayers of Great Britain plc).

The sale of PowerGen to any plc is not privatisation, it is squandering without proper consideration one of the most vital aspects of our whole modern day life. Yours faithfully,
JUDITH A. ROBERTS,
Poplar Farm,
Carlton, Aldborough,
North Humberside.

American action

From Mr Gordon M. Infield
Sir, On April 24, I wrote to the Better Business Bureau of Pasadena to complain that a company in their area never replied to letters, however important they were.

This week I received a reply! Part of the letter said that "If we do not hear from you within ten working days, we will assume that you have accepted the company's explanation or offer."

This letter was dated July 9 but was not posted until July 17 and received by me on July 23.

If this is the manner in which the Better Business Bureau manages its affairs, what chance does one have with other businesses in America?

Yours faithfully,
G.M. INFELD,
23 Trinity Court,
170a Gloucester Terrace, W2

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Clever Trevor moves on

EIGHT weeks after walking out as head of derivatives at CSFB, the securities trading arm of Credit Suisse, Trevor Robinson has joined Fidelity to set up a department dealing in futures and options. Robinson, aged 37, who joins the firm as a director, has been given a free hand to build a derivatives team from scratch. And living up to his nickname "Clever Trevor", he will be keeping an eye out for fresh talent to help him in his task. "We will probably build up a team of about six people over the next two years," says Robinson, who left CSFB after a derivatives team from Bankers Trust was brought in, under his nose, to do much the same thing. As he settled into his new Lovat Lane offices yesterday, Robinson - who became known as "Super Bear" during the late Eighties because of his distrust of equities - concedes that Hans-Joerg Rudloff, the CSFB chairman, may have done him a favour. "I haven't owned property since the summer of 1987, and events at CSFB put me off buying. Since then the housing market has come my way, but still don't own any shares." Perhaps this is just as well.

Fighting fashion

THE latest events in the Gulf will be of little comfort to John Major, who is already using most of his juggling skills in the battle against inflation. But they may be of less

concern to his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, who was spotted on an Olympic Airways flight to Salonika in Greece - four days before Parliament rose for the recess. The portly former chancellor, making the most of his first opportunity to escape from Westminster ahead of the summer rush, flew to the Aegean two weeks ago, accompanied by his wife, Therese, and their two sons. Yet the change of pace has done little to improve his sense of dress. "He was dressed in a shabby suit," says one fellow passenger, who spotted the Lawson entourage strolling across the tarmac.

Bullet dodger

FRANÇOIS de Rancourt, newly-appointed senior managing director of Banque Paribas, knows as much about dodging bullets as coping with the stress of high finance. For de Rancourt, aged 51, who arrived in London last month after a six-year spell with

Ottoman Bank in Istanbul, almost died in 1985 after a Turkish security guard shot him five times in the arm and leg as he was leaving his offices. "I was descending the marble staircase when one of the guards lost his head," said de Rancourt, who was lucky to escape with his life. "Luckily there was a small escape route nearby, and I was able to crawl to safety." More than a match for any assailant, de Rancourt was back at his desk three weeks later. And despite his spells abroad, he is no stranger to London. Born of an English mother, he attended Eton, and went on to cox at Cambridge in 1963.

THE deputy secretary of the War Risks Rating Committee, the body used by syndicates at Lloyd's to assess cargoes in the Gulf and other danger zones, is a Mr De'Ath.

Man of the people

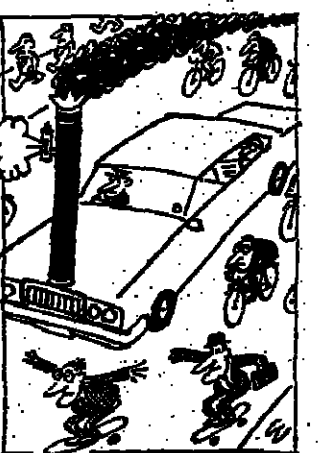
SIR Bob Reid, the well-liked chairman and chief executive of Shell, has never been one to talk down to his employees. For Sir Bob, aged 56, soon to take up full-time chairman of British Rail after 34 years with Shell, invited all manner of staff to his farewell bash two weeks ago. Among the revellers who flocked to the Victoria & Albert museum for the party were cleaning staff from Shell-Mex House, many of them West African. Some turned up in national dress and were taken back when Sir Bob, who once worked for Shell Nigeria, began chatting to them in their local dialect. And a handful of BR's 134,000 workers have

already had a taste of what to expect of their new chairman. For he recently paid an impromptu visit to the driver's rest room at Waterloo, thereby missing his next two trains.

Laurentian stakes

AS BROKERS brace themselves for another gloomy day in the Square Mile, they may take a tip or two from Britain's life assurance companies. Few could be more relaxed than Laurentian Life, which is launching its latest venture to help the world's rainforests. Directors gather at London Zoo this morning to see off Phil Korbel, a Radio 4 producer, and Cathy Brooks, of Friends of the Earth, who hope to raise £50,000 towards rainforest conservation by cycling from Australia to London. The pair fly to Sydney on Saturday to begin their epic trip, which is expected to take 15 months. And Laurentian, never one to miss a good opportunity, hopes to fly 250 of its top salesmen and women to Pinang in Malaysia next May, to give them a rousing welcome. "We aim to mix business with some fun," quips Simon Freedman, corporate sales and marketing director, who says the trip will be a reward for the top business producers. But with return flights to Pinang costing anything from £649 a head, Laurentian will be lucky to escape with a bill for less than £150,000, leaving its cycling sponsorship somewhat in the shade.

Jon Ashworth



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THE LAW

How private is your privacy?

We all like to think that our private affairs, particularly our finances, are not open to prying eyes. Any idea that strangers could examine our bank accounts is abhorrent not because of any fear that such an examination, even by an income tax inspector, would reveal any wrongdoing, but because privacy, particularly in the relationship of banker and customer, is a part of our civilisation that we should be able to rely on.

The law supports this principle. This was confirmed by the Tournier case in 1924, which went on to deal with the exceptions, apart from when the customer consents to disclosure. These exceptions were when the bank was obliged to disclose by compulsion of law, or in the rare case of disclosure in the public interest, or when the interests of the bank required disclosure.

Readers of the "Report of the Review Committee on Banking Services", the "Jack Report", published last year, may therefore have been alerted to note the 19 statutory exceptions to the general



Derek Wheatley, QC
examines how banker confidentiality can be undermined

rule that were listed. However, there is the safeguard that a judge, or magistrate or commissioner of inland revenue, or the like, has first to hold that a good case has been made out to indicate that the account in question does not belong to an honest person, but to some miscreant, and that the details revealed are needed to prove a case against him that the authority in question already knows about from other sources.

The Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 was needed to guard against the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking. It created a new offence when, for

example, a bank or building society fails to report to the police a transaction that it suspects is connected with drug trafficking. It was said at the time that drug trafficking was so serious that it justified a new duty to reveal a customer's affairs on suspicion.

The move was not to be repeated. The relevant minister said so in the House of Commons because of uneasiness that this was a new departure. After all, it was not required that any case should first be made out to a judge, and suspicion can be mistaken. Furthermore, the clerk who suspected, but did not report, is punishable, by s.24, with imprisonment for up to 14 years.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act followed last year. It was as right and necessary to arm the law against terrorism as it was against drug trafficking, but this time the rules relating to "terrorist money" went even further. The official handling a financial transaction without reporting it is once more guilty of an offence punishable with up to 14 years' imprisonment, not this time if he suspects it involves "terrorist money", but,



The problem: confidentiality between banker and customer can provide a shield for criminals

by s.13 (2) (b) (ii), if he "knew or had reasonable grounds to suspect" that it does.

The act gives no indication of what constitutes such reasonable grounds for suspicion and leaves the unhappy situation that a not very alert clerk who did not suspect might be guilty of the offence because others brighter than he would have done so.

One of the four main aims of the Jack committee was "to preserve and consolidate the banker's duty of confidentiality to his customer". It recommended a new

statute to codify the various exceptions to the duty of confidentiality. Now a white paper discloses the government's plans to implement the recommendation. Sadly it... does not accept the... suggestion that there has been a massive erosion of the banker's duty of confidentiality through... statutory exceptions affecting only the very small number of customers who use the banking system dishonestly.

Is there not an element of complicity in an attitude that seems to equate suspicion with

proof of dishonesty and to discount the effect on foreign investors of a system thought to be too prone to disclosure at the behest of government?

Of course we must counter drug trafficking and terrorism; they are special cases. However, enforced disclosures of private banking should not be extended further, lest this should lead to a general erosion of banking confidentiality.

Recently, the inland revenue attempted to seize wide powers to search bank accounts at random by a clause in the 1990 Finance



Pledge: Richard Ryder, the economic secretary, gave the Commons an assurance on continued confidentiality

Bill that amended the Taxes Act 1988. On being questioned in the Commons, however, Richard Ryder, the economic secretary, thought again and gave an unequivocal assurance on the amendment, saying: "There is no question of a fishing expedition."

The end does not justify the means and the principle of confidentiality for our bank accounts is still, and should remain, inviolate.

© The author, a practising barrister at 3 Gray's Inn Place, is a member of the Bar Council and Commercial Committee.

Law Report August 7 1990 Court of Appeal

Draconian effect of confiscation orders under drugs trafficking Act

Regina v Robson
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Garland
[Judgment July 20]

A striking and extraordinary consequence of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 was that the court's powers were so draconian as to be able to deprive the legal owner of property of some or all beneficial interest in it without the owner having any opportunity to present arguments against such a conclusion.

Mr Justice Rose so stated when giving the reserved judgment of the Court of Appeal on an appeal by Steven Kenneth Robson, now aged 29, a self-employed builder, of Woodhouse Way, Cambridge, against a confiscation order of £18,361 made by Judge Bezzley at Cambridge Crown Court on pleas of guilty to two counts of

possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply (cannabis resin and amphetamine sulphate), for each of which he was sentenced to two years imprisonment concurrent, and possession of amphetamine sulphate, for which the concurrent sentence was six months.

The confiscation order of £18,361 was quashed and a confiscation order of £1,400 was substituted.

Mr Roger D. Harrison, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Jonathan Haworth for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROSE said that, with regard to the confiscation proceedings, it was conceded that the sum of £1,490 in cash found in the house was realisable property within the meaning of section 5 of the 1986 Act.

The dispute which the judge

had to resolve was whether the house, at Woodhouse Way, Cambridge, was also realisable property. He found that it was and that the appellant had a 60 per cent and his mother a 40 per cent interest in that property. It was against that finding that the appeal was brought.

In accordance with the Act the judge had to determine:

1 Whether the appellant had benefited from drug trafficking (section 1(2));
2 The value of the appellant's proceeds of drug trafficking (sections 1(4) and 4(1));
3 Whether the realisable property held by him included a beneficial interest in the house (sections 4(3) and 5(1));
4 If it did, whether that interest or some part of it represented the proceeds of drug trafficking (section 5(5)(b) and 5(6)(b)).

The judge's determination on questions 1 and 2 was unchallenged, namely, that the

appellant had benefited from drug trafficking to the extent of £8,750. In answer to questions 3 and 4 the judge determined that the appellant had a 60 per cent interest in the house and that interest represented the proceeds of drug trafficking so as to justify the confiscation order of £18,361. Findings 3 and 4 were challenged by way of appeal.

Unchallenged or not disputed were the judge's findings that the house, said to be worth £72,500 at the time of the order, had been bought in August 1987 for £39,500 in the mother's name; she paid the deposit of £2,500 and the legal costs and expenses and also contributed £3,000 towards improvements.

From September 1987 to October 1988 14 monthly mortgage payments, each of £330 were made. The appellant, who had been released from prison earlier in 1987, went to live in the house in September 1987.

A number of lodgers, who paid a total sum of £3,000 to the appellant, also lived there before November 1988 when the appellant's occupancy ceased following his removal in custody. The appellant's mother never lived in the house.

The appellant began drug trafficking in March 1988 and, in consequence, six mortgage payments were treated as having been made before and eight after drug trafficking began. He paid outgoings on the property, including gas, electricity and rates.

The judge found that both the appellant and his mother were liable but it was not the Crown's case that she knew of the appellant's activities involving drugs.

Before the judge it was common ground between counsel that, in order for a finding to be made that the appellant had an equitable interest in the house, it

was necessary for the judge to be satisfied that there was a common intention on the part of the appellant and his mother that he should have a beneficial interest in the property. The judge inferred such an intention from four factors, which he set out in a crucial passage.

Their Lordships had been referred to a number of authorities: *Eves (1975) 1 WLR 1338*; *Grant v Edwards (1986) Ch 638*; *Snell's Equity* (29th edition (1982) p181); *Underhill and Hayton: Law Relating to Trusts and Trustees* (14th edition (1987) pp273, 277) and *Hanbury and Maudslayi: Modern Equity* (13th edition (1989) p253).

In the light of those authorities Mr Harrison submitted that, strictly, no common intention was necessary for a resulting trust which arose from payment of contributions.

But here the judge found that the parties' intention was to provide a home in which the appellant was to acquire an interest and having found that intention and contributions having been made, it was immaterial whether the trust was described as resulting or constructive.

Mr Harrison submitted that the authorities showed that, for there to be a resulting trust, there had to be a contribution to the cost of capital acquisition and, for a constructive trust,

there had to be an element of detriment.

He submitted that, the four factors neither separately nor together supported the inferred intention: apparently unreliable behaviour of Mrs Robson was ambiguous; the fact that the appellant moved into the house and referred to it as "my house" afforded no proper basis; and the finding the appellant bore a substantial part of the outgoings did not decide the matter in the absence of a finding that the payments made by him by way of outgoings were referable to the purchase of the property.

The position in the present case was quite different from the situation where a man and a woman were married or living together.

The appellant was living rent free and in need of a roof over his head. The fact that the money from the lodgers, supplemented by the appellant, was used by the mother to discharge the mortgage did not mean that thereby the appellant was intended to or did in fact acquire an interest in the house and there was no finding, nor any scope for a finding that the appellant acted to his detriment.

Their Lordships had every sympathy with the judge. He faced a formidable task. It was a striking and extraordinary consequence of the 1986 Act that, in a case such as the

present, the court's powers were so draconian that it seemed able to deprive the legal owner of property of some or all of his or her beneficial interest in it without the owner having any opportunity to present the arguments against such a conclusion.

However, in their Lordships' judgment, the judge fell into error. The conclusion was inescapable that in the crucial passage he made no finding that the outgoings paid by the appellant were referable to purchase of the house.

The mere fact that the appellant contributed sums which the mother applied to the mortgage did not, in their Lordships' judgment, in the present case, establish that the intention of the parties was that such payments should be allocated to the cost of capital acquisition. Nor, indeed, could it be said that the appellant was a necessary or likely detriment to the appellant by making those payments.

Accordingly, the judge's finding that the appellant had an equitable interest in the house could not be sustained. The fourth question did not arise.

The appeal would be allowed to the extent of quashing the confiscation order made by the judge and substituting for it a confiscation order in the sum of £1,490, with 45 days imprisonment in default.

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Suspended constable retains membership of the Police Federation

Regina v Chief Constable of North Wales, Ex parte Hughes

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Nicholls

[Judgment July 24]

Regulation 27.1 of the Police (Discipline) Regulations (SI 1985 No 518) which referred to suspension "from membership of the force" and from his office of constable" did not have the effect of causing a suspended officer to cease to be a member of the Police Federation.

Whether a suspended officer was included in the phrase "a member of a police force" or in similar phrases, had to be decided in the context in which the words appeared.

A chief officer of police could lawfully, for good and cogent reasons, order a suspended officer not to attend meetings of the Police Federation, but he would require clear evidence of a substantial risk to the reputation and working of the force before taking such a step.

The better course would be to ensure the swift disposal of disciplinary proceedings so that the suspension would not be prolonged beyond what was reasonably necessary.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment refusing an application for judicial review of two decisions of the Chief Constable of North Wales, made on January 5 and 26, 1989, refusing permission to the applicant, Police Constable Anthony Hughes, a suspended officer, to attend Police Federation meetings at police headquarters.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Philip Havers for the applicant; Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC and Mr Daniel Jenner for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said two different meanings were put on the meaning of regulation 27.1.

The applicant submitted that although the regulation referred to suspension "from membership of the force" and from his office of constable" the effect of a decision to suspend was not to cause the officer to cease to be a member of the force or of the Police Federation but only to cause the officer to cease for a period to be permitted to discharge the duties or to exercise the rights of a member of the force.

The main ground of that submission was that a suspended officer was, in so many provisions of the relevant legislation, treated as a member of the police force that, construed

in its statutory context, regulation 27.1 must be held to leave the membership of the suspended officer in existence save as the rights and duties derived therefrom were required to be modified or limited, by the suspension.

The chief constable submitted that regulation 27.1 meant what it said: there was a suspension from membership of the force and, in consequence, a suspended member was to be treated for all purposes as if he were no longer a member of the police force, save in so far as the statutes or regulations provided expressly or by necessary implication otherwise.

The main ground of that submission was the plain meaning of the words used together with an assertion that all the examples of provisions which required a suspended officer to be treated as a member of the force were there in order to treat the suspended officer fairly. In particular a suspended officer was not to be treated as a member of the Police Federation.

His Lordship, having considered various statutory provisions and police regulations, said that it appeared that the applicant's construction of regulation 27.1 was correct to the extent that a decision to suspend an officer did not, during the period of suspension, have the effect of bringing to an end for all purposes, the membership in the force of the suspended officer.

The statutory provisions as a whole treated a suspended officer as retaining membership, so that any rights derived from or dependent upon the suspended membership.

The main issue turned upon the proper construction of the provisions relating to membership of the Police Federation, in the sense that the applicant could not demonstrate that the chief constable's decisions were vitiated by error of law unless he could show that the chief constable had applied a mistaken view of the law to the question whether the chief constable could or should consent to the applicant's presence at the Police Federation meetings.

In his Lordship's judgment it was necessary to construe each provision as a police force, was used in order to determine whether or not it included a suspended member. The process of such construction had to be purposive.

Thus if the chief officer had found it necessary to suspend an officer because it appeared that he might have committed a

disciplinary or criminal offence, it could not have been the purpose of Parliament that that officer should have the powers and privileges of a constable in dealing with members of the public see section 19 of the 1964 Act.

In the case of the provisions relating to membership of the Police Federation, however, such an approach produced a different conclusion.

The purpose of those provisions was the promotion of the welfare and efficiency of members of a police force through the organised activities of a representative institution.

In so far as the suspended member might receive services and assistance from the federation, or contribute by his work to the activities of the federation, there was no apparent purpose for enacting an automatic cessation either of the power to provide such services and assistance on the part of the federation or of the right of the member to contribute.

His Lordship considered the position of a meeting of the Police Federation held away from police premises, by the assumption that a suspended officer remained a member of the federation. Did the chief officer have lawful authority to instruct the officer not to attend?

His Lordship thought it clear that the chief officer did have such authority. A suspended officer remained under a duty to carry out any lawful order given to him.

If there were grounds for a chief officer to order a suspended member not to attend a federation meeting, such as the need to avoid public loss of confidence in the force or among members of the force itself, which might reasonably be expected to be caused by the attendance of the suspended officer, then the chief officer could lawfully order him not to attend.

A chief officer would, no doubt, require clear evidence of a substantial risk to the reputation and working of the force before taking such a step.

His Lordship therefore accepted that the suspension of an officer did not cause the officer to cease to be a member of the Police Federation but held that the chief constable did have power to order a suspended officer not to attend federation meetings.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL and LORD JUSTICE NEILL delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Mrs Jennifer Trigger, Colwyn Bay.

THE LAW

Getting together in the Temple

Merging chambers to cut costs and improve efficiency is not as easy as it sounds, say two barristers who last week linked their operations

The amalgamation last week of two Temple chambers to create a new set, to be known as 12 King's Bench Walk, has been widely suggested as just the first in a series of such developments. Ronald Walker QC, the head of the merged chambers, begs to disagree.

"It is not at all easy to merge," he says. "The only reason we were able to do so with Julian Gibson-Watt's set was that we already shared the same building. The difficulties of finding suitable, affordable accommodation is going to be a major obstacle to other chambers following our example."

Despite the difficulties, Mr Walker is convinced that mergers will be vital to secure the future. "A common law set of chambers needs to be large in order to provide the specialisation that the clients are looking for," he says.

The new 12 King's Bench Walk has immediately put in train a programme of modernisation, which will make it a model for the new generation of barristers. A "six-figure sum" is being spent on refurbishing the offices.

Conference facilities are being installed incorporating the latest



Partners: Ronald Walker QC (left) and Julian Gibson-Watt will spend a "six-figure sum" on modernising

communications technology. Video conferencing is just around the corner and a new computer system is on its way. "We're committed to obtaining whatever is necessary, whatever the cost, by way of computers," Mr Walker says. "Barristers' chambers need to be furnished up to the highest standards of modern offices."

Critically linked to this process of bringing chambers up to date is a restructuring of the chambers'

administrative facilities. Inadequate administration can easily lose work for the set. Mr Walker is determined that his members should be served by a streamlined, efficient and administrative infrastructure that would ensure that no letter is ever lost, no telephone call goes unreturned, and that bills are sent out promptly and accurately.

"We have introduced a new diary system by which each diary will be looked after by two clerks, so that

there will always be someone in the clerk's office who knows exactly what each barrister is doing."

Of course, the brilliant advocate will always be busy, but the new philosophy at 12 King's Bench Walk acknowledges that the competition for work will be largely thought out at the corporate rather than the individual level.

"A lot of work comes to the chambers rather than to an individual," Mr Walker says, "so it is

important to have a set of well-run chambers behind you." This is characterised by the increase in direct access work. If they are offering themselves for direct access, barristers are expected to be instantly and constantly accessible.

Alongside the ability to create a stronger infrastructure, however, Mr Walker was able to point out good business reasons why a merger was now the right thing to do.

The need to be able to field teams of barristers of varying seniority, the importance of being able to put more money into sponsorship and recruitment, together, of course, with the higher profile created by a bigger set, all led Mr Walker and Julian Gibson-Watt to believe that they were doing the right thing in linking their chambers.

Like all mergers however, the effectiveness of it will depend largely on how well the two sets of people get on together. Fortunately, they had always been good neighbours and, although not particularly close, there was mutual confidence that they could live with each other. Most important, the clerks signalled that they could work together.

Mr Walker regards his new set as offering an example of the way the Bar can update itself and show that it can provide just as efficient and modern a service as firms of solicitors. Advocacy skills may be the Bar's unique strength but everything else is open to competition.

By improving the corporate infrastructure, by giving young talent a better start, and by enabling barristers to get on and apply their skills more efficiently, Mr Walker hopes that he is ensuring a better future for his members.

EDWARD FENNELL

Managers ignorant of export controls could end up in the dock, says Clifford Miller

The risk of taking business abroad

The so-called "Iraqi gun" affair has broader and somewhat more bizarre implications than most people, including lawyers, realise. Quite innocent contraventions of export controls can, theoretically, put all sorts of people at risk of a criminal conviction, forfeiture of the goods concerned and a fine of up to three times their value.

As might be expected, controls apply to exports of high-technology goods that could be put to military use. However, some seemingly innocuous goods are also involved. For example, controls apply, with some exceptions, to anything made more than 50 years before export, presumably to cover antiques. This could,

however, include things such as 1930s briefcases, old clothes and toys.

Other examples are unlicensed exports of live pigeons, of salmon and trout caught at certain times, cocoa beans, sawdust and various kinds of scrap metal.

Clearly, Customs & Excise would use its judgment before prosecuting someone who is ignorant of the regulations, but many a managing and sales director would do well to consider his or her position

The most radical and welcome rationalisation of the high-technology controls is taking place in stages this year. Since July 1, several categories of goods have been permitted to be exported without an export licence. These include technology for gas turbine engines, steel alloys, polycarbonate sheets, transistors, solid-state amplifiers, oscilloscopes and floating docks.

In the key areas of machine tools, computers and telecommunications, the prohibitions

on exports have been relaxed significantly, but for some equipment, export licences must still be obtained.

Further changes are to be made this month and, says the trade and industry department, it is hoped that all the proposed radical reforms can be implemented this year.

It is a serious mistake to ignore the regulations that remain. The penalties for being knowingly concerned in exporting without a licence are heavy: the people involved could be

arrested on reasonable suspicion at any time up to 20 years after the offence was committed and be subject to unlimited fines and jail for up to seven years.

Company directors should take note of the position when approving contracts, particularly for goods of significant value. Sentences imposed by the courts since 1985 concerning computer equipment have included fines of £30,000 and three years' imprisonment. Furthermore, it is not yet

clear how wide the net goes. The exporter is liable and so is the shipper. The legislation is relatively recent (1979) so there is little case law on who counts as the "shipper" for these particular purposes.

The regulations are complex: if in doubt, apply to the export licensing division of the trade and industry department for a licence (6th floor, King's Gate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW. 071-215 8070). Provide full written details in addition to the risk of misunderstanding on the telephone, there are penalties for giving false information.

● The author is a solicitor in the commercial and trade law department of Simmons & Simmons' London office.

INNS AND OUTS

A drive to recruit more black magistrates has been undertaken by the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in response to clear signals from the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department that there should be more people from black and ethnic minority communities in both the judiciary and the magistracy. The latest figures from the Lord Chancellor's department (January 1987) show that of 23,735 active magistrates only 455 were black.

A leaflet published by Hammersmith and Fulham council encourages people to put themselves forward and explains the procedure by which magistrates are selected.

The question of specifically encouraging black people into the profession and the judiciary arose at the Society of Black Lawyers' annual conference held last weekend in Bristol, but views diverged on whether specific targeting is either necessary or desirable. Among the delegates was the Hon Mr Justice Henry Brooke, chairman of the Bar's Race Relations Committee, who also learned of the society's misgivings about requesting judges to undergo anti-racist training.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants is backing the Law Commission's recommendation to change the law on contributory negligence to allow judges to apportion damages in breach of contract cases where the plaintiff is partly to blame for the breach. In a memorandum to the commission, the institute argues that the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act, 1945, should be amended to extend the ability to apportion damages in tort cases to all contract disputes. The institute says: "We have long recognised that there have been an increasing number of claims brought against accountants (based in contract and in tort) and that the damages sought have been, on occasion, out of proportion to the role and responsibility of the accountant or the auditor. This, in turn, has had an adverse effect upon the availability of and terms on which professional indemnity insurance can be obtained."

The institute argues that it is unsatisfactory that there is still uncertainty over whether the ability to apportion damages applies under the 1945 act, where the liability arises solely under contract but the contract requires the accountant to use reasonable skill or care. It says that the determining factor for apportioning liability should be the express or implied responsibilities of the plaintiff and the defendant, and not the legal basis of the duty — be it contract or tort, statute or common law.

How effective the law can be in redressing discrimination in employment is a problem that has re-emerged in the debate over the employment of people with disabilities. Can a legally imposed quota do anything to ensure that people with disabilities are fairly represented in the work force? The 3 per cent quota which applies to all workplaces employing more than 20 people has been in existence since the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act was passed in 1944, but the government's consultation paper, "Employment and training for people with disabilities", has come down on the side of not imposing a quota, arguing that anti-discrimination legislation may be counterproductive with employers, is difficult to enforce and hard to draft. Organisations for the handicapped disagree, saying a quota is the best way of protecting people with disabilities from discrimination. Lawyers with views on whether a quota should be imposed have until December 31 to submit comments to the employment department.

Europe is proving more alluring to American law firms than the Far East, especially the turbulent Chinese and Hong Kong markets. The latest arrival in London is the New York law firm Paul Weiss Rifkind & Garrison, which caused a stir when it closed its five-lawyer Hong Kong office last month after spending years building a leading China practice. After Tiananmen Square work has tailed off and the firm is hedging its bets by winding down its Peking office to one associate, rather than closing the office. The London venture will be staffed by one corporate partner, Neale Albert, and two associates.

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MERGER INCORPORATED
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With the changes ahead in the Legal Profession and the run-up to 1992, I am now instructed by several prestigious City and West End practices looking for complementary practices to become involved with them either small firms or niches in the areas of Insolvency, Entertainment, Trust & Probate, Banking and Shipping. It may be that you are a large Partnership looking for niches in specialised areas, in which case I may well now be in a position to help, or possibly a smaller practice wishing to strengthen.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Many provincial firms are looking to acquire a smaller quality firm with sound client base but would not want a merger or acquisition.

Should you have merger/acquisition please write to or telephone Mrs. Pamela Handford, West End Legal Services, 3 Fleet Street, Temple Bar, London EC4V 1AU. Tel: 071-585-2000.

HORIZONS

Uncorking the mystique with a business flair

Forget the glamour. Forget the mystique. Wine buying is no more about sipping fine wines in a sun-ripened vineyard than it is about exotic tasting rituals ministering to exquisitely refined palates. "It is not all jetting off, spitting and sniffing," says Sainsbury's Alan Ceesman. It is, however, a career that involves hard work and long hours.

Yet most buyers are enthusiastic about the job. Tesco's Stephen Clarke enjoys being able to innovate: "Within a short space of time, you can make a name for yourself as the buyer who introduced a new wine into the UK."

Buying involves finding the right wines for the market and investing in them - knowing how much of what to buy and when. Buyers must be able to follow and predict market trends when drawing up a company's wine list or developing a pricing or marketing strategy. They have to display good numeracy and communication skills, especially when negotiating foreign orders worth thousands of pounds.

Wine buyers are responsible for keeping track of stock levels, transportation and warehousing, as well as quality control. Their exact duties, however, depend on the size and nature of the company. In smaller firms, buyers tend to undertake a greater variety of tasks with less support. They

Wine buyers work long, hard hours, often on weekends, yet when Linda Steele asked several if they would ever consider changing careers, they gave her an emphatic 'no'

may, perhaps, have sole responsibility for sampling imported wines to ensure that they are the same quality as when originally selected. In larger companies, there may be more opportunities to progress and be creative, for example, by asking a farmer to create a new wine to fill a gap in the market. Most buying work, including selection, takes place in this country. Buyers are sent wines to sample and they attend trade tastings. Some visit wine-producing regions as few as four times a year, others up to 18, for anything from two days to a week. Work abroad is intensive and, as Sainsbury's Liz Robertson, warns, means "freezing in a cellar in Burgundy", rather than sightseeing.

Trips involve a combination of discussion, investigation and public relations. Producers are visited in order to negotiate acceptable prices, taste new wines, check the standard of production and to

ensure a good relationship is maintained. As many wine-makers are small farmers, knowing at least one other EC language is an advantage. A buyer will also be on the look out for new producers and wines in the region.

Tasting may be an art, but buyers tend to be matter-of-fact about it. Edward Adams, of Co-op, says: "If you have a sense of taste and smell, you can train your palate sufficiently for the purposes of buying within just a few years." Buyers usually learn to associate each wine with a familiar scent - memory triggers that are as individual and varied as Wellington boots and gooseberries.

There are two ways of entering the wine-buying field. One is as a generic buyer. (In the supermarket chains, it is common to have general retail and buying training and experience, before specialising in buying wines.) The other is by gaining wholesale or retail wine-trade experience. There are a few,

highly sought after, graduate traineeships, offered by companies such as Grants of St James's, but Rodney Lea-Howarth, of International Distillers and Vintners, warns people to expect a "humble start".

Whatever route is chosen, an employee will need to study for the Wine & Spirit Education Trust examinations: the certificate, higher certificate, diploma and perhaps the prestigious Master of Wine qualification. These courses focus on knowledge of the product, not business. Buying, however, is very much in the upper reaches of the wine-trade hierarchy and it requires a wide range of experience and business acumen. Competition can be fierce and even in a large company there may only be two or three buyers.

Wille Liebus, of the independent wine merchant, Bibendum, says would-be wine buyers should gain experience by retailing in shops and pubs, selling "on the road" to hotels and restaurants and developing business skills, particularly accounting and marketing. He says: "Take the initiative. Try new wines when you eat out and ask the advice of the sommelier. Join your university wine society, go grape picking in the holidays, learn the basics and don't expect to be spoon fed."

Further information: W&SET, 1 Queen Street Place, London EC4A 3DF and Harpers Wines & Spirits Gazette.



One of a new breed: Roger Higgs, imbued with the service ethic and the desire to demystify wine

Days of snobbery are gone

DECIDEDLY un-chie purple sunflowers with faces beam from the Chardonnay bottle held aloft by Roger Higgs. (Buyers have a say in label design.) "Wacky!" he laughs. "I enjoy working for a company that 'de-snobs' wine. I don't think I would have survived in one of those established family firms." At 27, Roger is one of a new breed of wine buyers, imbued with the service ethic and the desire to demystify wine. Young and enthusiastic, he has none of the pretensions one associates with wine tasting and readily agrees with the criticism that some firms are the "last

CAREER PROFILE

bastions of male Englishness". As a recent graduate and short of cash, Roger started working in a local Oddbins wine shop - shifting boxes in the cellar, shelf-stacking, selling and later managing. Oddbins has a policy of training all its staff. Tutored tastings are held regularly and store managers are sponsored and encouraged to study up to diploma level with the Wine and Spirit Education Trust. Within three years, Roger had become an assistant buyer. He

feels shopfloor experience is invaluable for a buyer, who needs to understand the customer. "Finding a brilliant wine is one thing, but you have to know if it is right for UK tastes." Wine-trade salaries are considered low and the hours long, but Roger feels there are other rewards: "You are working in a friendly trade with a fascinating and complex commodity. Every day brings something new. It is a challenge and you have to think on your feet. And when you have bought better than anyone else, the right product at the right price, that is the best feeling."

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

071-481 1066

EAST SUFFOLK HEALTH AUTHORITY

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our team leading the Community and Mental Health Unit to Self Governing Trust Status in 1991.

DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND CORPORATE SERVICES

You will be responsible for leading the Unit in all aspects of Human Resource Management and ensuring that our remuneration strategies are competitive with local markets. In addition you will also lead the administration, estates and health education services.

Salary for the post circa £21,000 per annum plus performance related pay plus lease car plus assistance with removal expenses.

Applicants should have sound experience at a senior level and preferably hold a relevant professional qualification.

For information pack and application form, telephone: The Unit Personnel Department on 03943 2111 ext. 225/6.

Closing date: August 31, 1990

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

ACADEMIC AUDIT UNIT

POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Academic Audit Unit, which has recently been established to monitor quality assurance mechanisms in UK universities, wishes to appoint a Deputy Director, to assist the Director in the establishment, operation and development of the Unit. Salary will be in the professional range for UK universities; the post will be for three years in the first instance, and will be tenable from 1 October 1990, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Unit is to be located on the campus of the University of Birmingham.

POST OF ADMINISTRATOR / SECRETARY

The Academic Audit Unit wishes to appoint an administrator/secretary to join the team which will establish, operate and develop the Unit. Salary will be on Grade 1 (£11,399 - £13,495) or Grade 2 (£14,038 - £18,165) of the scales for administrative staff in UK universities; the post will be for three years in the first instance, and will be tenable from 1 October 1990. The Unit is to be located on the campus of the University of Birmingham.

Further details of both the above posts are available from: David Young, Assistant Secretary, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, 29 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ (071-387 9231) to whom applications should be submitted by 29 August 1990.

Parkside Health Authority Mental Health Unit

OPERATIONS MANAGER Senior Managers Pay c. £19,500

The recently restructured Mental health Unit is looking for an Operations Manager for the Acute/Community Services sub-unit.

Accountable to the Acute/Community Services Manager, the postholders will be highly motivated individuals able to demonstrate the strong leadership qualities and interpersonal and communication skills necessary to lead and develop a multi-disciplinary team.

As a budget holder you will be required to use resources effectively and efficiently to deliver a high standard of service.

You will have some management experience and although this may not necessarily be in general management, you will need an understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of general management.

This is an excellent career post for someone who wishes to develop their management skills.

For further information contact Mr W. T. Higgins, Acute/Community Services Manager on 071 725 1657.

For an application package please contact Julie Astbury, Senior Personnel Officer, Mental Health Unit, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London NW10 7NS - Telephone 081 453 2755.

Closing date: 17th August 1990.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities

Caring for the Community

PARKSIDE Health Authority

ChildLine



0800 1111

ChildLine Wales

ChildLine, the free national helpline for children in trouble or danger, now seeks to increase its service to children in Wales and in order to do so will open an office in Cardiff during 1990. We are looking for the right people to take the lead in establishing and staffing the new centre.

APPEALS CO-ORDINATOR £17,700

We need a self motivated person to build on our existing success and ensure the necessary funds are raised to support ChildLine Wales. You will need to be creative yet practical, a good public speaker and above all sensitive to the need to get on with all types of people. Previous experience of fundraising would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be highly committed to children and to the promotion of ChildLine's aims and objectives and, ideally be able to communicate in Welsh both orally and in writing.

Requests for further details and an application form should be sent to:

Ann Russell (Ref: ACW)
Personnel Manager
ChildLine

Royal Mail Building
Studd Street
London N1 0GW

Closing date: 31 August 1990

University of Oxford Study Administrator/Research Assistant U.K. Prospective Diabetes Study

A vacancy for the administrator/research assistant has arisen for this large-scale multi-centre study of diabetes and prevention of its complications.

The position would suit a well-organised and numerate graduate with initiative and attention to detail. You will supervise and guide the 23 participating clinics in hospitals throughout the United Kingdom, with occasional visits. The duties are wide-ranging and frequently unexpected and will be performed in collaboration with the statisticians and directors of the study and with the help of a Deputy Administrator and four clerical staff. Previous experience in a medical or scientific environment is advantageous. Problem-solving skills, word-processing knowledge and energy will help!

The position is Scientific Officer Grade 1B, Scale 10,699-15,444 p.a. with University terms of service. Further details may be obtained from Suzy Oakes (0865) 248418. Applications, including c.v., experience and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to Dr Robert Turner, Diabetes Research Laboratory, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HE by Thursday, 14th August.

Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital

Unit Finance Manager

Salary: £27,000pa plus Performance Related Pay

This internationally renowned London postgraduate teaching hospital is currently integrating its clinical decision making with its overall hospital decision making. As a member of the new interprofessional UNIT MANAGEMENT BOARD with your Clinical Director colleagues, you will be involved in a major programme of change within the hospital, including the opening of new facilities in Phase 1 of the new hospital later this year and the implementation of an integrated hospital system including order communications and, of particular relevance to this post, a CASE MIX AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM. The hospital is also investing in its basic financial systems, including new general ledger and locally run payroll systems. Opportunities also exist for innovative work on contracting and input to other ventures within this leading-edge authority. As a hospital executive, you will report directly to the Unit General Manager, with the advantage of working in a small, specialised and highly complex hospital where there is major investment in new medical technology with ongoing research and development into the treatment of lung and chest diseases.

This demanding role requires a qualified accountant with relevant post-qualifying experience, not necessarily in the healthcare environment. You will have a proven track record in terms of applying your accountancy skills, achieving deadlines and excellent interpersonal skills. This post is ideally suited for those with career aspirations to move into general management. The Unit has extensive plans for training and education to support the changes being implemented.

For an informal discussion, please contact Mrs Cowpe, the Unit General Manager, on 071-351 8009 (direct line).

Application form and job description available from the Personnel Department, Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Tel: 071-351 8091 (24 hour answering service). Closing date: 5th September 1990.

SENIOR ASSISTANT UNIT ACCOUNTANT

UP TO £16,530PA + PERFORMANCE RELATED PAY

The changes currently taking place in the NHS have created the need for the individual units within our Authority to look closely at the way in which we approach the services that we provide. The Acute Services Unit within West Essex is determined to be a successful provider organisation from April, 1991.

The appointment of a Senior Unit Assistant Accountant is an essential part of our future plans to provide effective financial management support and information to our clinical directors and other senior managers at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping. This will be a hands-on role calling for someone prepared to become an innovative member of our professional team.

You will need to be progressive towards the completion of a professional accountancy qualification and possess sound technical skills coupled with excellent inter-personal skills. As communication with people at all levels is an important part of this position.

Informal enquiries can be made by calling Mr Sam Asamoah, on 0279 444455 ext 2119 or application form and job description can be obtained from: The Unit Personnel Department (Acute), Parndon Hall, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow Road, Harlow, Essex. Tel. 0279 444455.

Closing Date: August 17, 1990.

West Essex HEALTH AUTHORITY

The rugby union tour to Argentina revealed alarming deficiencies. David Hands suggests ways to tackle underlying problems

England must review World Cup build-up

NEARLY six months ago there seemed some danger that a trace of snuggles was creeping into English rugby. Ireland, France and Wales had been dispatched in good order and business, as the hostiers say, was booming. Since then, the smile has been wiped from the face of the English game with the defeat by Scotland, a diffident performance against Italy and now a tour of Argentina which has indicated above all how thin the veneer of talent is at the highest end of the game.

Any criticism of those six months must be prefaced with the reminder that in only one of those games did England field their strongest XV. Italy was a non-cap match and it has been said here that, whatever else the England tour party was, it was not the full side. The unforgiving history book will not see it that way, and the counter-balance is that England should be big enough, in terms of manpower, attitude and ability, to be able to ride the absence of key players.

Manifestly, they are not, but the most positive aspect of the tour to Argentina, which ended when the players arrived home yesterday having drawn the international

series 1-1 but lost four of seven games, is that it has happened with a year still to go before the World Cup. If there is a will to do so, some of the deficiencies may still be made up. Or at least, papered over.

The timing of the tour was ill-conceived, but again that is hardly relevant. The vital point relates to the overall management and preparation of England at the highest level and it is one that Geoff Cooke, the team manager, acknowledges: "We have not made any real progress towards the World Cup with this tour. We had hoped for more."

"We have to look at the way we prepare a side; we are missing out somewhere. I don't know if we are failing to recognise what the problems are, but we all have to look at our roles. Are we giving the players the right things? The frustrating thing as a national coach is that we lose control of the players when they go back to their clubs and we can't decide what they do there or even where they play."

"We have to try and get coaches at home on the same wavelength. They have to stop being so introverted and parochial. We

need to agree a framework in which we can operate. We can't have three different ways of rucking or mauling. We call meetings of the top 36 club coaches each season, but the problem is getting them to attend."

The limitations of the existing English management have been made clear on this tour, partly by the limitation of many of the players involved. England's failure to perform in their opening four matches, three of which were lost, was no surprise because so much of their work in training was sloppy. The necessity for more physical conditioning work than normal can be accepted because this was two months out of the English season, but international players should not be allowed to train in the half-hearted, error-strewn way that England did.

But they were, and that coupled with a lack of tactical appreciation and genuine authority at stand-off half, some quixotic captaincy and an absence of staff work on what could be expected of the opposition, led to a tour based on quicksand. Yet, there were enough experienced players in the party, even though several were far from

Hodgkinson milestone

SIMON Hodgkinson's nine points in the final game against Argentina in the past the 100 mark in international rugby, in eight matches. This puts him second, behind Grant Fox, of New Zealand, who achieved the feat in six matches.

Games	Try	Con	Pg	Dg	Tu
6	G Fox (NZ)	1	1	1	112
8	S Hodgkinson (Eng)	1	1	1	103
9	M Lynam (Aus)	2	2	2	109
9	G Hastings (Scot)	2	2	2	107
10	P Jones (Scot)	2	2	2	113
10	P Thomas (Wal)	2	2	2	102
11	N Bosh (SA)	2	2	2	109
11	A Hewson (NZ)	3	3	3	107

Hodgkinson also became the fourth Englishman to score 100 international points.

Pts	Player	Matches	Years
240	D Hale	26	1974-84
138	B Miller	15	1959-72
129	R Andrew	30	1955-80
103	S Hodgkinson	8	1985-90

their best, to win both international matches against a strictly limited Pumas side had only a few of the numerous unforced errors, which littered this tour, been avoided.

Cooke is an excellent manager and his party, in general terms, did him credit in difficult circumstances. Humphrey Maud, the recently appointed British ambassador to Argentina, observed at

the end-of-tour banquet that England's presence helped make his introduction easy and, certainly, Argentinians have appreciated their visitors, even while they were puzzling why they could not play better. Had Frenchmen or New Zealanders been here, they inferred, there would have been considerable unpleasantness, but England had behaved "like gentlemen" - and lost.

Cooke and Roger Uttley, as coaches, have distinct limitations, but I do not believe that an alternative is required. Heaven knows, there are not many obvious alternatives. The best overall coach in the country is probably Alan Davies, but if his talents are to be used, some personal differences must be sunk. Dick Best and Mike Stemen, the B coaches, and Jack Rowell at Bath all have something to contribute, and if England seriously want to win the World Cup next year, then a coaching panel may be the best answer.

The players, too, must realise that rugby is not a game played by numbers. They must expect the unexpected and learn to cope with it. Too many players in Argentina came up with inappropriate re-

sponses. There were exceptions: Jason Leonard is an exciting talent at loose-head prop, Nigel Redman restored himself to the top three in the pecking order of locks and Nigel Heslop, who admitted that he came on tour as the No. 5 wing, now has the confidence of two caps and an international try to take into the domestic season. Dean Ryan as a back-row forward has distinct possibilities, if he can control his temper.

Argentine rugby can reflect the warm and impulsive nature of people who play it, but if they are to create a better team at a time when they have few forwards of genuine physical stature, they must find a way of marrying the forward mobility of the provincial sides to the strength and skill of back-play seen in Buenos Aires.

They must, too, improve their refereeing standards. Those who watched England's 1981 tour in Argentina tell me standards have declined since then. Argentine referees are neither biased nor lack courage, but they do not apply the laws, in particular, off-side. The Argentinians will always suffer a severe shock to the system when the Pumas tour abroad because they will not be able to adjust their

TOUR RECORD

RESULTS: July 14: Loss to Buenos Aires. 22-17. Argentina, 15-14. 21st test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 22nd test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 23rd test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 24th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 25th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 26th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 27th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 28th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 29th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 30th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 31st test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 32nd test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 33rd test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 34th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 35th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 36th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 37th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 38th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 39th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 40th test to Buenos Aires. Selection, 22-21. 41st test to Buenos Aires. 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FOOTBALL

PFA unhappy about foreign players in English game

By STEVE ACTON

GORDON Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association has criticised the number of foreign players being allowed to play in the Football League.

Taylor said: "I have already contacted the FA and League to express our fears at the number of foreign players being allowed in while there are so many of our own players looking for new clubs. I don't want to put up an Iron Curtain in reverse, but I think a lot of these imports are only being brought in because they are cheap."

Taylor said it often cost less to bring players in from Europe and Scandinavia than to deal in the transfer market here. "But it doesn't mean that they are any better than those readily available," he said. "I don't want to see football ending up like cricket

with young players being neglected for players from abroad.

"We can't stop our own players going abroad, but we should make sure those coming in are, at least, of a similar standard."

The closure of Aldershot would leave another 15 full-time professionals looking for employment and there may be more if the two former internationals, on a month's trial at Highfield Road, are taken on by Coventry City. The Hungarian midfielder player, Zoltan Csicsanzy, of Videoton, and the Uruguayan defender, José Perdomo, are both expected to play in the home friendly match on Friday against Aston Villa's Czechoslovakian Uefa Cup opponents, Banik Ostrava.

Notts County, who are considering the purchase of the West German, Matthias

Hamann, will take another look at him tonight in their friendly at Barnet. Aged 22 and registered with Bayern Munich, Hamann played on loan for Fortuna Cologne last season and impressed Neil Warnock, the Notts County manager, on Saturday after coming on as substitute in the 3-1 victory over Boston United. He is valued at around £100,000.

The Football League's increasingly cosmopolitan appearance will be heightened tonight when the new Aston Villa manager, Jozef Venglos, has a first look at his players in competitive action.

The former national coach of Czechoslovakia takes charge for the pre-season friendly against Bohemians, not of Prague but of Dublin, to mark the Irish club's centenary. The match will provide a useful workout for Villa's Maktia Cup match against Arsenal on Friday.

Sheffield United are to sign the Bournemouth goalkeeper, Phil Kite, as £25,000 replacement for Graham Beardsley, who has joined Brentford for £80,000.

The Portsmouth forward, Jimmy Gilligan, has joined Swansea City for £125,000 less than a year after his £215,000 transfer from Cardiff.

Louie Donowoa of Ipswich Town has agreed to join Bristol City for a fee yet to be agreed.

Lee takes over at helm

PETER Lee, a former civil servant, has been appointed secretary of the Football Trust 1990 (Louise Taylor writes). Funded by the pools companies, the organisation is a discretionary trust which gives grants financing the improvement of football grounds.

With stadiums required to become all-seated by 1994 in the wake of Lord Justice Taylor's Trust, Lee played a leading role in the Hillsborough disaster. Lee, who has been at a critical time. He has

responsibility for administering the Trust's annual income of £30 million and considering grant applications from clubs. During a civil service career spanning 25 years, Lee, aged 44, was the chairman of the Council of Europe's standing committee on the European convention for spectator violence, and the Minister for Sport's observer to the Football Trust. He played a leading role in the Hillsborough disaster. Lee, who has been at a critical time. He has

Bett turns down Nottingham Forest

JIM Bett, the Scottish international midfielder, last night turned down a £500,000 move from Aberdeen to Nottingham Forest.

Brian Clough, the Forest manager, had flown back from the club's pre-season tour in Sweden, hoping to conclude the deal, which would have ended his year-long search for a replacement for Neil Webb. But Bett, who had two spells with the Belgium club, Lokomotiv, pulled out of a deal without even talking to Clough.

"I discussed it with my wife and we decided we didn't want to uproot the family again," Bett said. "Throughout my career, I must have had ten homes and it's now time to settle down in this part of the world."

"I'll be speaking to Aberdeen later this week about a new contract and hope to be staying with them."

John Bogie, the former Aberdeen defender, will know after playing for Morton in tomorrow night's friendly with

Wimbledon whether his move to Birmingham City will go ahead.

Birmingham manager, Steve Bruce, has agreed to pay £100,000 deal.

Aldershot may have at last found the money they need to save themselves from closure.

The club secretary, John Pollard, said yesterday that the club was collecting money that had been pledged and that it could have enough to settle its debts, which have now been reduced to £370,000, once and for all.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL must not sell short its support

By ROBERT KIRLEY

AMERICAN Bowl '90, the National Football League's fifth annual pre-season excursion to London, had final moments on Sunday at Wembley, but that was no great surprise. The New Orleans Saints emerged with a decent if unspectacular 17-10 win over the Los Angeles Raiders. Whether the supporters came out as well as another matter.

The Saints scored first on a three-yard run by Reuben Mayes. The Raiders countered with a 31-yard field goal by Jeff Jaeger to pull within 7-3 at half-time. Giff Haggard's one-yard touchdown and Morten Andersen's 27-yard field goal gave the Saints a 17-3 advantage, and Elvis Patterson, of I.A. blocked a punt and recovered the ball in the end zone to set the final margin.

These were not top-drawers teams. When the series started, it was the intention to pair the previous season's Super Bowl contestants, or, at least, to match "one of the Fridges" with traditional caliber. The Raiders won three Super Bowls in yesterday, but neither they

nor the Saints reached the playoffs last season.

That might explain why the game drew 63,106 spectators, the lowest figure in the series. Wembley is an all-seated stadium for the first time, but this year's attendance represents a substantial drop on the 82,699 supporters who attended the inaugural game in 1986, in which Chicago beat Dallas 17-6.

The lack of a headline player probably affected the appeal and marketability of the game on Sunday. "The Fridges", Morten, Marino, Dickerson and Cunningham, who were among the leading lights in the earlier games, did not have a counterpart this year.

The "globalisation" of the National Football League has affected the pool of teams suitable for foreign service. This year, other pre-season games are being played in Montreal, Tokyo and Berlin. Britain has been loyal supporters of the American game, but the NFL's salesmen should recognise that Atlanta's Phoenix would not threaten the attendance record.

SQUASH RACKETS

Harrison surprise for Zaman

From COLIN MCQUILLAN

PAIDERBORN AIDEN Harrison came of age in international competition yesterday when he beat Umar Zaman, of Pakistan, 9-0, 10-8, 9-6, in a 57-minute third-string rubber that opened England's account in the second and most important of their qualifying pool matches in the world junior team championships here.

Zaman is the younger brother of the former world No. 2, Qamar Zaman, and there are significant echoes of that great master's racketwork and body deception in the teenager's approach.

In yesterday's first-string rubber, Rashid was beaten 9-4, 9-1, 9-4, by 34 minutes by the new world junior champion, to ensure a victory that pushes Pakistan towards Australia in the crossover semi-finals on Saturday.

RESULTS: Qualifying: Pool A: Australia 2, New Zealand 1; Canada 3, Netherlands 0; Pool B: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool C: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool D: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool E: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool F: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool G: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool H: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool I: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool J: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool K: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool L: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool M: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool N: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool O: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool P: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool Q: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool R: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool S: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool T: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool U: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool V: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool W: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool X: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool Y: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool Z: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool AA: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; Pool AB: Scotland 3, Netherlands 0; 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